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FRIDAY REVIEW FRONT

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## Blair flies in for Drumcree summit

TONY BLAIR last night addressed himself to the Gordian knot of Sunday's annual loyalist parade at Drumcree, flying into Belfast in search of the elusive compromise which might avoid damaging confrontation.

He arrived in a Northern Ireland where both tensions and hopes were running high - tensions from an overnight wave of Catholic church burnings; and hopes arising from Wednesday's election of a Unionist-nationalist team to head the new assembly.

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

That team, the first minister-elect, David Trimble and his deputy Seamus Mallon, were last night involved in talks aimed at finding a compromise over Drumcree, the controversial parade which takes place in Mr Trimble's hardline Upper Bally constituency.

This week the Parades Commission announced it was banning the march from the Catholic Garvagh Road, but

the Orange Order has said it does not regard the commission or the ban as legitimate. The order is reportedly organising protests not just in the Portadown area but all over Northern Ireland.

Mr Blair will be looking for signs of flexibility both among the Orangemen and among Catholic residents, two elements which have in recent years found it impossible to strike a compromise on the issue. A thousand extra troops have already been drafted into North-

ern Ireland as a precaution against a repetition of the widespread disturbances which have often accompanied the parade.

There has been hectic behind-the-scenes activity aimed at breaking the deadlock. The Orange Order has always refused to speak directly to the Catholic residents, ostensibly because it objects to the republican background and prison record of the principal residents' spokesman, Brendan McKenna.

One of many ideas being floated is that if a small march

were allowed along the road the order would subsequently open dialogue with residents. Such an approach, were it acceptable, would have the added appeal of not only resolving this year's problem but of holding out the prospect of a long-lasting solution.

The Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, said there could be a "horrendous tragedy" if the dispute got out of control. Saying that his government was in touch with Garvagh residents, he added: "It would be wrong

to say at this stage that there is any single compromise that is gaining any kind of confidence. There are several that are being tried, and one way and another everybody is participating. We are trying to find common ground to bring everybody together."

Mr Trimble said: "At a time of hope for the future of Northern Ireland, society can ill afford these acts of sectarian madness." The attacks were also condemned by the Orange Order and the Rev Ian Paisley, who declared: "Those people who have put their hands to such acts should desist at once. Such acts cannot be justified in any circumstances whatsoever."

The church attacks are worrying for the authorities not just in the physical damage they have done but because they appear to be the work of the extremist Loyalist Volunteer Force. This small but uninhibited violent group declared a ceasefire some weeks ago, surprising everyone by saying

it would not only eschew violence but was ready to decommission its weapons.

The scepticism with which that announcement was greeted appears to have been justified by the burnings. The group has been active during previous Drumcree controversies, and the fear is that it may now attempt sectarian murder attacks in the event of a parades confrontation.

Church burnings, page 3  
The long march, Review page 9

## Life for foster father who killed Billie-Jo

BY LOUISE JURY

SION JENKINS was convicted of murdering his foster daughter Billie-Jo yesterday amid furious scenes at Lewes Crown Court, East Sussex. Jenkins' jaw dropped as the jury returned a unanimous verdict on what the judge, Mr Justice Gage, said was "compelling evidence".

The teenager's natural father, Bill Jenkins, and members of his family punched the air and screamed abuse at Sion Jenkins, who was bundled from the dock. Billie-Jo's natural mother, Debbie Jenkins, cried as the judge said Sion Jenkins was a "very considerable danger to the community".

After a three-week trial, the jury of eight men and four women took 10 hours and 40 minutes to convict Jenkins, 40, of bludgeoning Billie-Jo to death with an iron bar as she painted the patio windows of the family home in Hastings last year. After the decision the court also heard that Jenkins was further accused of "obtaining pecuniary advantage by deception".

By lying about his qualifications to obtain his post as

deputy head master and later headmaster-designate of the William Parker school in Hastings, the charge will lie on file.

Mr Justice Gage said the motive for the murder was known only to Jenkins. "That girl was in your care as a foster child. You yourself were a deputy headmaster at the time. These bare facts are sufficient to show what a horrendous crime this was."

Outside the court, Bill Jenkins, a painter and decorator who is not related to Sion said he had never had any doubt of the defendant's guilt.

Sion Jenkins' wife, Lois Jenkins, the mother of his four natural children, who has now parted from him, said in a statement through her solicitor: "It is a terrible thing to realise that the man with whom you have lived for 14 years, the father of your children, is capable of murdering your child. There is no reason, no explanation, for such a pointless waste of a young life."

Killer's facade, page 5  
Ballad of Billie-Jo  
Review front

China's President Jiang Zemin boarding the first aircraft to leave the new Chek Lap Kok airport, Hong Kong, yesterday, after visiting the city to mark the first anniversary of Chinese rule. Later, Bill Clinton's presidential jet, 'Air Force One', was the first passenger aircraft to land at the airport, which was begun under British rule Peter Parks

## Iraq used deadly gas on Iranians

IRAQ USED the highly lethal VX gas against Iranian soldiers in one of the fiercest battles of the Iran-Iraq war, a former Iraqi Military Intelligence officer has told *The Independent*.

VX is at the centre of the dispute between UN Weapons Inspectors and the Iraqi government, who say it made only a small quantity of VX. The UN has found evidence that

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

Iraq put the poison gas in warheads and is refusing to lift economic sanctions without further information.

General Wafiq al-Samarrai, the former head of Iraqi Military Intelligence, who defected in 1994, says Iraqi technicians aided by German scientists succeeded in producing VX in

late 1987. He revealed for the first time in an interview that Iraq used VX against Iran in the battle of Fao in Southern Iraq in April 1988.

He says: "VX was used in the battle of Fao on 17 and 18 April." This was the critical battle of the Iran-Iraq war. The Iraqi Republican Guard Division successfully counter-attacked Iranian forces dug

in on a desolate peninsula in the far south of Iraq. General Sammarai says the VX was in shells and bombs which caused the panic among Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

The Iranians captured Fao in 1988 and held it for two years. They never recovered from the surprise attack executed by Iraq's elite force.

It was known that Iraq used

chemical weapons extensively at the end of its war with Iran, notably mustard and sarin poison gases. This was little criticised in the West at the time, because the US supported Baghdad against Iran. General Sammarai says the Iranians, who lost at least 50,000 dead and injured from gas attacks, did not have sufficient experience of chemical warfare to

know that VX was being used against them.

The VX was stored at al-Tharthar, a facility north-west of Baghdad, says General Sammarai. He says he did not previously reveal the use of VX by Iraq against Iran because he wanted to do so at a moment most likely to help bring down the government in Baghdad.

Deadly gas secret, page 13

## Cool Britannia finds itself frozen out of favour

BY DAVID LISTER

AS IN LIFE, so in ice cream. Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, has always hated the phrase Cool Britannia. Tony Blair assures leading arts figures that he too has wider interests than the pop and fashion of Cool Britannia. And now Cool Britannia the ice cream has been killed off by political controversy.

The strawberry and chocolate ice which is widely said to

be "not very comfortable with". The name and ingredients of the ice cream were coined by an entrant in a competition to come up with a new flavour in 1996. Since then the phrase has become a buzzword synonymous with British chic.

Ian Hills, a spokesman for the US-based firm, said they were ice cream makers and not in the business of making "convoluted cultural observations". They wanted to make way for

new products and had decided to ditch Cool Britannia to end the association.

He said: "Since Cool Britannia's launch it's become an everyday term, hijacked by politicians and cultural pundits. We never thought this would be the case and it's certainly not what we're about."

Mr Chris Smith has said in a new book that he always disliked the phrase. Tony Blair this

week entertained leading arts figures at 10 Downing Street to assure them of his interest in the higher arts.

But in fact the genesis of Cool Britannia goes back much further. The phrase was coined in the lyrics of a 1968 song by the cult sixties group the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band. The lyric ran: "Cool Britannia/Britannia take a trip/Britannia ever, ever, ever shall be hip..."



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Prudential said the £15bn pension missing debate was Mrs Thatcher's fault

SPORT  
England face an uphill struggle as South Africa reached 237 for 1 on the first day of the third Test

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## New pill cuts pregnancies

Unwanted pregnancies were cut by a third among women with a home supply of the morning-after pill

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## Councils can 'parachute' heads

All local authorities should be able to "parachute in" heads with "street fighting" skills to turn round failing schools, Ofsted said yesterday

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## Israel flouts Gaza strip deal

Israel is flouting an agreement designed to allow Palestinians to travel freely between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank

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## Four dead in Budapest bomb

Budapest gang wars reached new heights when a car bomb in the heart of the downtown shopping area killed four people and wounded 20.

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## Nazi gold trade row looms

A bitter trade row was threatening to erupt last night between Switzerland and the United States after two US states said they were planning to push ahead with a boycott of Swiss banks

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## Staunton returns to Anfield

A salary of £20,000 a week has lured the defender Steve Staunton back to Liverpool, seven years after he left to join Aston Villa

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## Smith chairs new sports cabinet

The Sports Council is to gain direct access to funding for the first time, working under a "Sports Cabinet" chaired by Chris Smith

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FRIDAY REVIEW  
24-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

## Donald Macintyre

Blair almost certainly sees a trade-off between strong defences - and public opinion on Europe. The stronger Britain is in its own right, the less the British electorate will fear the EU

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## Paddy Ashdown

The violence in Kosovo is escalating daily and if we wait too long we will be watching a regional conflagration this time next month, or even this time next week

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## Philip Henschler

It won't be long before there are openly gay bishops, generals, even footballers. And who cares?

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## Norway to call for Sellafield closure

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

Meacher, in a letter of complaint, that the discharges were polluting some of the world's most valuable fishing grounds.

Last month the Norwegian government submitted a tough resolution expressing concern about Sellafield and the nuclear plant at Dounreay in Scotland for a meeting in Portugal later this month which is expected to signal a major cleanup of the marine environment of the north-east Atlantic.

The meeting of the Oslo-Paris commission (OSPAR) at Sintra near Lisbon is likely to see Britain isolated among the 16 OSPAR member states. The UK is unwilling to go along with a proposal to bring radioactive waste discharges to the sea from nuclear plants down to "close to zero".

The refusal will present a tough political and personal problem for John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and Environment Secretary, who will be at Sintra to sign the proposed marine clean-up treaty on behalf of Britain.

Mr Prescott, a former seaman and still an enthusiastic diver, spent much of his early political career campaigning against the dumping of nuclear waste in the sea: in 1983 he made a protest about it in Downing Street dressed in a frogman's suit. A Downing Street spokesman confirmed last night that the meeting between Mr Blair and Mr Bondevik would take place and said: "It is probable that the issue of radioactivity will be raised. It is clearly an issue they are concerned about."

The levels so far detected in Norway are not dangerous to humans, but there is concern that they may grow: T-90 accumulates in shellfish. Last summer it was found in lobsters off Sellafield and then in December in lobsters off Norway.

The disclosure that the radioactivity was being carried by marine currents 500 miles around the top of Scotland to Scandinavia caused anger in the Nordic countries. In March Anna Lindh, Environment Minister of Sweden and chair of the Nordic countries environment ministers' group, told Britain's Environment Minister, Michael

Koch, that he was "a complete idiot" for not having done more to stop the discharges. Mr Koch, who was originally selected to build the roof for the dome, is claiming £3.2m damages for breach of contract to add to a £1.2m writ it issued last year.

Officials made the decision after environmentalists ob-



A set of 17th century orthopaedic armour is polished up for a display at London's Science Museum of treasures from regional museums. The exhibition runs until 1 November

## Let couples choose sex of babies, says fertility doctor

A FERTILITY doctor who is offering to let British couples choose the sex of their baby if they travel to the United States will today call for regulations in Britain to be changed to allow the treatment here.

Paul Rainsbury, who attracted controversy last year when he announced his sex selection service, is due to speak at a debate, Babies by Design, at the Ideal Health Show being held in London tonight as part of the NHS's 50th anniversary celebrations. It has been organised by the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Council to stimulate discussion of the ethics of "designed babies."

In Britain, selection is permitted only in families with a history of gender-linked disease such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy, which affects only

ance their families" by choosing the sex of their next child.

I would like to see the regulations changed. We are doing

surrogacy and allowing insemination of lesbians and homosexuals. These are far bigger ethical minefields than sex selection.

At the end of the day it is going to come down to couples voting with their feet."

He said he "would not normally" consider couples for treatment who had fewer than three children of the same sex.

If a couple phone up and say they are starting a family and want a boy or a girl I would say that is not on."

Mr Rainsbury said yesterday that couples who already had several children of the same sex should be able to "bal-

chromosome male sperm - and injecting them into eggs removed from the ovaries of the woman. The sex of the resulting embryos is then checked after three to four days before those of the chosen gender are replaced in the womb.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority last night said that producing babies could not be regarded as a purely commercial venture.

Christine Gosden, professor of medical genetics at the University of Liverpool and a member of the authority said: "Children should be valued for themselves and not for their sex. We do not believe that children are commodities that can be selected as if from a supermarket shelf."

## Dome faces £3.2m writ from German roof firm

BY BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

The legal action follows the decision by the New Millennium Dome Company to scrap plans for a PVC roof supplied by Koch and opt for a tougher Teflon-coated skin provided by a Japanese business.

Originally selected to build the roof for the dome, Koch also supplied the roof of the dome at Greenwich, east London, to have been demolished after a few years.

The £3.2m is being sought as

compensation for loss of profit, time and labour spent on the project and cancellation of materials and insurance.

Koch also said it was involved in an expensive hedge against movements in the exchange rate between sterling and the deutschmark. The £1.2m writ was issued over the allegedly "completely unfair and pre-judicial manner" in which the sec-

ond contract was awarded to another company.

Koch Highett said it had not been paid any money under the contract, worth £6.15m and awarded in May last year.

Michael Koch, chief executive of the German company, said it was not clear why the business was given to rivals Birlair, given that Koch Highett was the world's largest manu-

facturer of Teflon-coated glass-fibre.

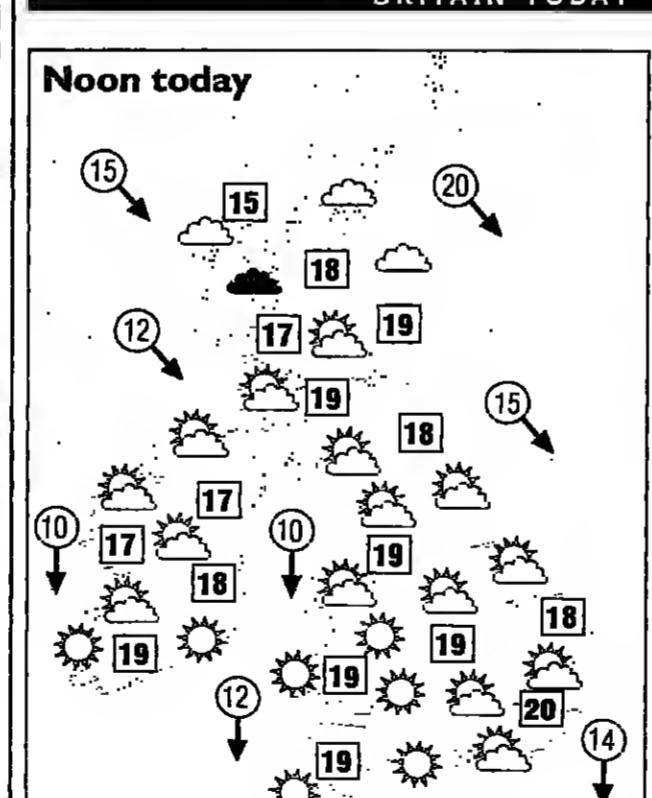
A spokesman for the dome company said that a second writ had not been received, but it would "vigorously defend" any allegation of breach of contract.

He said the original contract contained provisions covering compensation if it was terminated.

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NEXT FEW DAYS

Scotland will be cloudy on Saturday with spells of rain. Most of the country will be warmer, particularly south-east England and there will be good sunny spells. On Sunday it will remain warm, although showers across Scotland will push south, reaching the Midlands later and it will be breezy everywhere. Monday and Tuesday will be cooler. North and west Scotland will be cloudy but sunny spells will dominate elsewhere.

	LIGHTING UP TIMES
Belfast	22.02 to 04.54
Birmingham	21.33 to 04.51
Cardiff	21.30 to 04.50
Glasgow	22.04 to 04.59
London	21.20 to 04.50
Manchester	21.40 to 04.47
Newcastle	21.47 to 04.34

	HIGH TIDES
London	09:16 6.0 21:39 5.7
	05:36 7.5 19:17 7.4
Aberdeen	01:59 10.0 14:37 9.8
Hull (Albert Docks)	01:32 7.0 13:53 7.1
Greenock	07:11 2.9 20:43 2.7
Dun Laoghaire	07:34 3.4 20:06 3.3

	AIR QUALITY
London	NO <sub>2</sub> Mod
S England	PM <sub>10</sub> High
Wales	High
C England	Mod
N England	Mod
Scotland	Gd
N Ireland	Mod

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Moon sets: 01:24

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**Billie-Jo killing:** Foster father's carefully constructed image revealed as sham as jury returns guilty verdict

# Killer who hid behind facade of a decent citizen

**CLEAN CUT** and composed, Sion Jenkins sat in his dark suit and correctly knotted tie, looking the epitome of respectability. It was hard to believe he had anything to do with the bloody scenes of carnage on the police video.

But appearances can be deceptive. Sion Jenkins was not exactly what he seemed. He was the headmaster designate of a well-respected boys' comprehensive. But he had lied about his qualifications to get the post.

His neighbours knew him as a churchgoing, happily married man with four natural daughters, prepared to foster a deprived child, Billie-Jo. But he viciously beat his wife, Lois, and disciplined his children with a stick.

The jury was to know none of this as they sat at Lewes Crown Court in East Sussex. Certainly the Crown wanted to present something of this other side of Jenkins, but in legal arguments many such details were ruled inadmissible.

So the eight men and four women were asked to believe that this middle-class professional man with no previous convictions had committed a murder which the acting police surgeon described as the worst in his 26 years' experience.

Jenkins, the son of a former policeman, will be 41 next month. He went to school at the Glasgow Academy, although he allowed his colleagues to believe he had attended the more prestigious Gordonstoun.

A statement issued yesterday by East Sussex County Council said he did not, as he had claimed, attend Kent University and he had not obtained a BA honours degree, a post-graduate certificate in education, an advanced diploma from the Open University or an MSc in education management from King's College, London. Instead, he had a basic teacher training qualification from Nottingham College of physical education in Kent.

Nevertheless, by his mid-thirties, Jenkins had won the post

BY LOUISE JURY

of deputy head at the William Parker School in Hastings. The family were in the process of fostering Billie-Jo and it was agreed that she would go with them when they moved from their London home in 1992.

When he was arrested after Billie-Jo's death in February last year, Jenkins had been an appointed successor to the headmaster who was due to retire.

In 1984, Jenkins had married Lois Ball, a religious, shy young woman who was training to be a social worker. She was overwhelmed by his domineering personality. They have four daughters - Annie, 13, Lottie, 11, Esther, 10, and Maya, 8.



Billie-Jo Jenkins: Deprived

A Tory traditionalist, who once stood as a Conservative candidate in local elections, he had a short temper and was a strict disciplinarian. Jenkins hit his wife, and regularly told her she was worthless and dependent on him. The children were all impeccably well-behaved - small wonder, when anyone who offended was taken to a separate room to be hit with a "naughty stick". Talking to police after her father's arrest, Lottie, then 10, was surprised to hear that some children never struck at all.

Police believe Jenkins went far further than acceptable discipline. On one occasion, a family friend, Peter Gainsford, witnessed Jenkins kicking Billie-Jo in the ankle after she had



Sion Jenkins arriving at Lewes Crown Court yesterday to hear the jury's guilty verdict

sprained it. Mr Gainsford's statement to police - ruled inadmissible as evidence - said that passing an open door he had seen Jenkins throw Billie-Jo violently on her bed.

"I saw Sion walk towards Billie-Jo ... [he] then violently kicked Billie-Jo against her injured leg. He looked round and saw me standing there ... walked over to the door and calmly closed it. The subject was never mentioned again."

The day of Billie-Jo's death came on 15 February last year at the end of a half-term holiday. She and Annie were doing chores to earn pocket money. Lottie was at a music lesson and Lois took the two youngest girls to the beach.

Jenkins collected Lottie from her lesson; she was anticipating helping Annie wash the family cars.

But Sion snapped, battered Billie-Jo to death and fled. He took Annie and Lottie with him on a mad drive twice around the block allegedly to buy white spirit. The prosecution said the journey was an attempt to distance himself from the murder. On their return, Lottie discovered Billie-Jo's battered body.

Probably no one will ever know exactly what had happened that afternoon. The most likely guess is that Billie-Jo was playing her music loudly as she painted the windows. Jenkins turned it down. As he turned to join Annie and Lottie, Billie-Jo defied him and turned the music back up. In the altercation that followed, Jenkins snapped and grabbed the tent spike that was lying around. Jenkins controlled every-

thing about his life and the life of his family but occasionally lost it," the detective said. "He lost control on 15 February, but from the minute he dropped that tent spike he was in control again. He really believes he didn't murder Billie-Jo because he has blanked it from his mind."

Unusually for someone on a murder charge, Jenkins was on bail throughout for £250,000 raised by his father and Sir Tom Farmer, the millionaire owner of Kwik-fit who was a family friend.

Maybe as he walked through the crowds outside the small

Sussex court room, Jenkins had convinced himself of his innocence. But as he starts a life sentence in prison today, he will have plenty of time to consider what really happened.

Detective Superintendent Jeremy Paine of Sussex police said yesterday: "Sion Jenkins

has never accepted anything that we have put to him. He appears to want to just blank out anything that suggests he might have been in any way deviant or dishonest or done anything wrong."

*Ballad of Billie-Jo.*  
Friday Review front

## CLUE TO MURDER

THE evidence that led to Sion Jenkins' conviction was discovered by a forensic scientist four days after Billie-Jo's death. Adrian Wain phoned to tell the police he had found 150 microscopic spots of blood on the trousers and jacket Jenkins wore on the day of the killing.

Tests showed this "mist" of droplets, described as being like an aerosol spray, could only have been found on someone very close when a blunt object was striking wet blood.

It was the evidence Sussex Police needed. Asked whether they already had suspicions, Detective Superintendent Jeremy Paine said yesterday: "The first people you have to rule out in this sort of investigation are those very close to the victim. We had to look at the family very closely."

Jenkins had already changed details in his story in the days after the killing. He also held a press conference where his cool demeanour contrasted with his wife Lois's distress.

The telephone call from Mr Wain was the "clear moment", Superintendent Paine said, when Jenkins became prime suspect.

Jenkins' defence team argued that the blood stains were created when he was tending Billie-Jo after she was found lying on the patio of the family home.



## IN BRIEF

### Tax on supermarket parking places dropped by ministers

PLANS TO tax supermarket parking places have been dropped by ministers fearful of a motorists' backlash, according to Whitehall sources.

Treasury officials vetoed the plans, arguing that the scheme would not raise much cash and would be complicated to implement. One estimate considered that a £100 annual charge on each space would only raise £200m for the Chancellor.

However, local authorities will be empowered to impose charges on firms with large car parks and use the money collected to fund public transport schemes.

### Ecstasy supplier, 14, stays free

A 14-YEAR-OLD boy who handed an ecstasy tablet to a friend who became Britain's youngest ever victim of the drug yesterday escaped detention at the High Court in Edinburgh. The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, will instead have his case dealt with by a children's hearing after he admitted a charge of culpable homicide. Andrew Woodlock, from New Stevenson, Lanarkshire, became Britain's youngest ever ecstasy victim when he died in June last year, aged 13.

### Jury out in Christie libel trial

THE JURY in the Linford Christie libel trial yesterday retired to consider its verdicts. Mr Christie, an Olympic gold medallist, is suing author John McVicar over allegations that he took drugs to get to the top. The sprinter says that an article written by Mr McVicar in a 1995 issue of the now defunct satirical magazine, *Spiked*, meant he was a cheat who used banned substances to boost his physique and performance.

### Prisoner found hanged in cell

AN INMATE at Glasgow's Barlinnie Prison died yesterday after he was found hanging in his cell the day after his birth day. Ian Taylor, 26, from Ardrosson, Ayrshire, is believed to have hanged himself shortly after contacting a relative by phone. Staff who discovered him attempted resuscitation, but he was declared dead at Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

### Sixteen hurt in minibus crash

SIXTEEN PEOPLE were taken to hospital yesterday following an accident involving a minibus and four other vehicles. A number of pensioners who were travelling in the minibus when the smash occurred on the A69 at Hessary near York, were injured.

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# Investors get poor deal from City

SAVERS WHO buy personal pensions are being ripped off by companies that charge them too much and then deliver inferior investment performance, according to a report published yesterday by *Which?*, the independent consumer magazine.

The guide claimed that holders of personal pensions were getting a "raw deal" because they typically paid four times as much in charges as those using pension schemes that were sponsored by employers.

The *Which?* report drew an angry reaction from insurance companies, which said many of the criticisms were out-of-date or misguided.

According to research by *Which?*, the publishing arm of the Consumers' Association, the higher charges are not reflected in superior investment performance.

When City firms invested personal pension money in the stock market, the investments earned an average of 11.1 per cent a year over five years. But when they invested the same money on behalf of employers, it earned 13.5 per cent a year. *Which?* said a consumer who invested £1,000 in a typical personal pension five years ago would now have a fund worth £2,865. If the

BY ANDREW VERTIY

money had been invested in an employer's scheme, it would have been worth £3,548.

Sheila McKechnie, the director of the Consumers' Association, said: "We can't think of another major industry where consumers get such a raw deal or where companies get away with selling such poor products." She said that high charges taken at the beginning of a personal pension contract allowed life insurers to make their profits while the consumer took all the risks.

Most personal pensions involve an initial charge of 5 per cent of all contributions over the life of the pension contract. Thus someone who saved £100 a month for 25 years would pay £1,500 in initial charges alone. Most of this money is taken out of the first two years' contributions. Yet according to official figures from City regulators, more than a third of personal pension holders stop paying within three years.

Ms McKechnie said insurers should reform themselves by spreading charges over the lifetime of a contract rather than taking them out in the early years and that stiff controls were needed from the new regulator, the Financial Services Authority. She said: "The new regulator should have a statutory duty to make sure products meet minimum standards of charges, flexibility and quality before they're sold."

The *Which?* report also claimed that many endowments and Peps had underperformed the stock market, in some cases returning as little as 4 per cent a year.

The investment industry rejected the criticism as naive and misleading. Many insurance companies - including Standard Life, GA Life, Scottish Mutual and Flemings - have already spread their charges over the life of the contract. This has been done despite the risk that the contracts may lapse before they have recovered their sales costs.

Peter Robertson, a general manager at Standard Life, one of the biggest providers of personal pensions, said some of the criticisms were outdated. "We have been doing what they have suggested for three years," he added. He said employers' schemes gave better interest because the employer bore the cost of administering them, and economies of scale mean they are cheaper to run than personal pensions.

Leading article, Review page 3



Kristina Ferris, whose pension fund was still worth less, after eight years, than the amount she had paid in

Rui Xavier

## How a friend's advice turned into a scandal

KRISTINA FERRIS is the type of keen and disciplined customer whom private pension providers claim we should all be like.

Eager to start her retirement planning early, she decided to take out a pension shortly after starting a new job as a graphic designer at the age of 25.

Moreover, she was committed: every time her salary went up in the subsequent eight years, so did contributions into her pension.

Ironically, Kristina's very commitment almost led to her retirement income being worth a fraction of what it should be.

A fund which should have grown to £45,000 over that period was worth barely £11,000. Were she retiring now, the reduced sum would buy her an income of just £14 a week.

Her experience now forms part of a massive pensions mis-selling scandal, involving hundreds of thousands of innocent victims and a £15m compensation bill for the companies that advised them.

Kristina's own mistake was to listen to a "close friend", an insurance salesman who then worked for a company called Merchant Investors. He wrongly advised her that instead of joining her company pension scheme she should take out a private one instead. Every time she received a pay rise, he sold her a new plan instead of simply adding her

increased contributions to the original one.

His "advice" meant that Kristina faced new setting-up charges, which can take most of the first few years' payments into a scheme, every time she upped her contribution. To make matters worse, after he joined another insurer, Lincoln National, he continued to "advise" her; this time to start out a new plan with his new employer.

As a result, despite making more than £16,500 of contributions, her fund was still worth less after eight years than she paid in - despite high investment returns over that period.

Kristina only discovered the gulf between her total payments and her fund's value after receiving a financial makeover from *The Independent* last year.

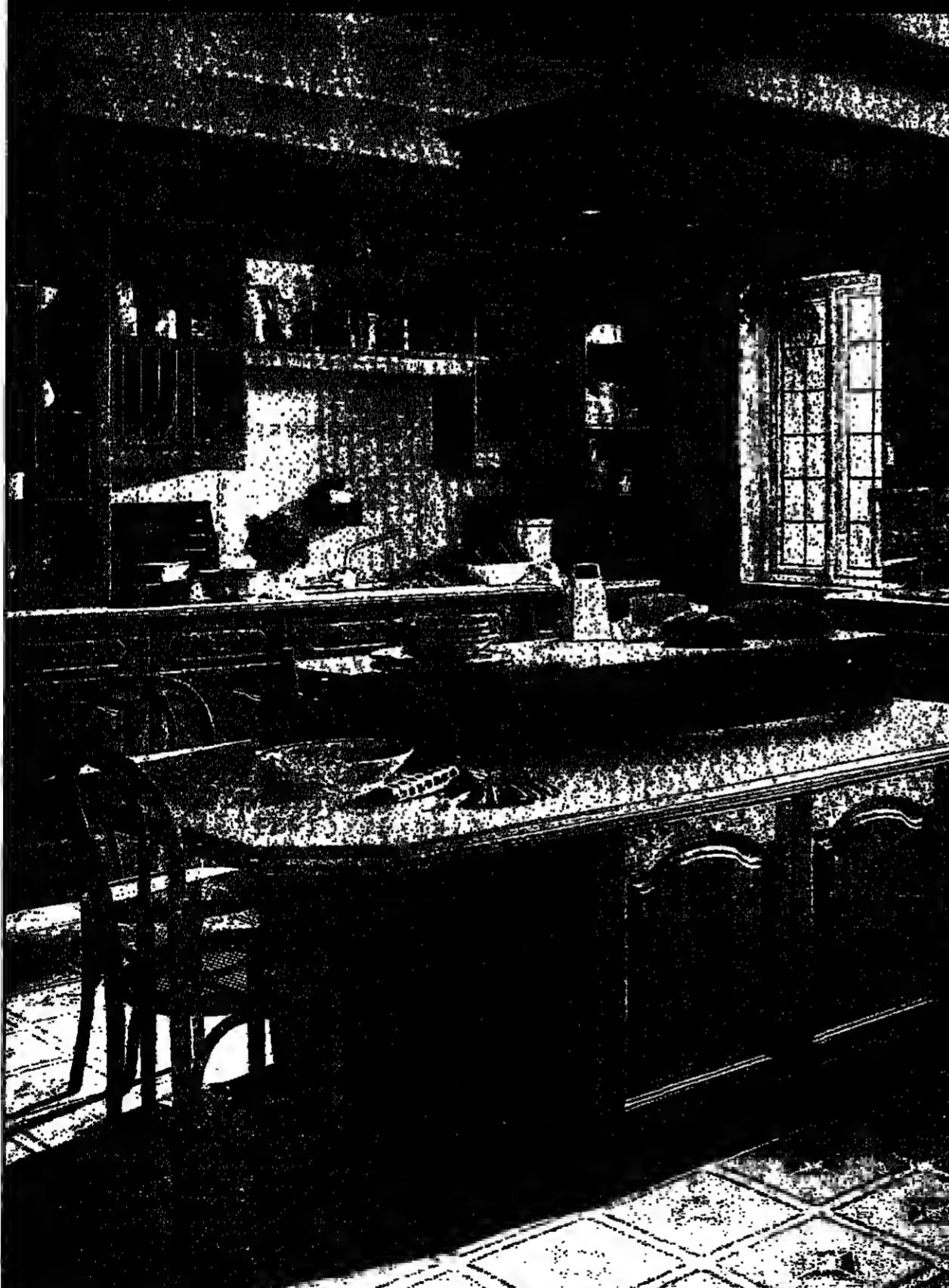
She said yesterday: "I was shocked when I found out what had happened. I had continued paying money into the scheme for all that time without realising that the amount my fund was worth was so low, compared to my contributions."

Even after the mis-selling was discovered, it took 15 months for her company scheme to be credited with the £45,000 her contributions should have been worth.

Kristina is no longer friends with the adviser concerned: "After my story was first published, I sent him a cutting. He never got in touch again."

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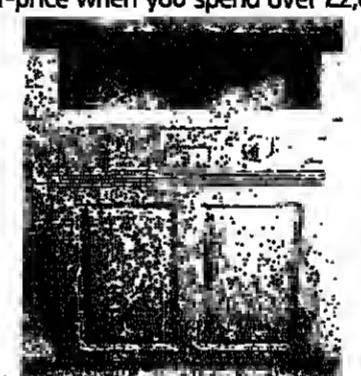
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## Scheme covers cost of student failure

By BEN RUSSELL  
Education Correspondent

AN INSURANCE company is offering a policy which will pay off undergraduates' student loans if they are forced to leave after failing their university exams.

Under the scheme, insurance group Saxon is offering undergraduates unlimited cover if they fail to finish their course. The £1.35-a-week policy offers to pay off student loans and meet their outstanding tuition fees and even rent if they are forced to leave university early.

Students are covered whether they fail their exams, get pregnant, fall ill or even if they are sent to jail. The only thing not covered is if they drop out voluntarily.

The policy, which is available to all students but which can only be taken out by the over-25s, is being aimed at parents to cushion the blow if their offspring fall ill or go off the rails.

From October, undergraduates will have to pay means-tested tuition fees of up to £1,000. Student grants will be abolished and replaced with maintenance loans. The National Union of Students estimates undergraduates spend up to £7,000 a year on living expenses. University figures suggest 17 per cent of undergraduates drop out.

Brian Wright, managing director of Saxon Direct, said: "We are not even excluding drug and alcohol abuse; there are few exclusions. These days universities cannot afford to be a soft touch. They need the income stream. It's the parents who end up with the liability, or their son or daughter ends up without a degree but with a liability."

Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, welcomed the initiative. He said: "Ucas does not endorse the scheme, but I feel that this policy is likely to address some of the major financial concerns of parents whose children are about to start university or college."



Band members prepare to play at the Amazing Great Children's Party in Battersea Park, south-west London.

Rui Xavier

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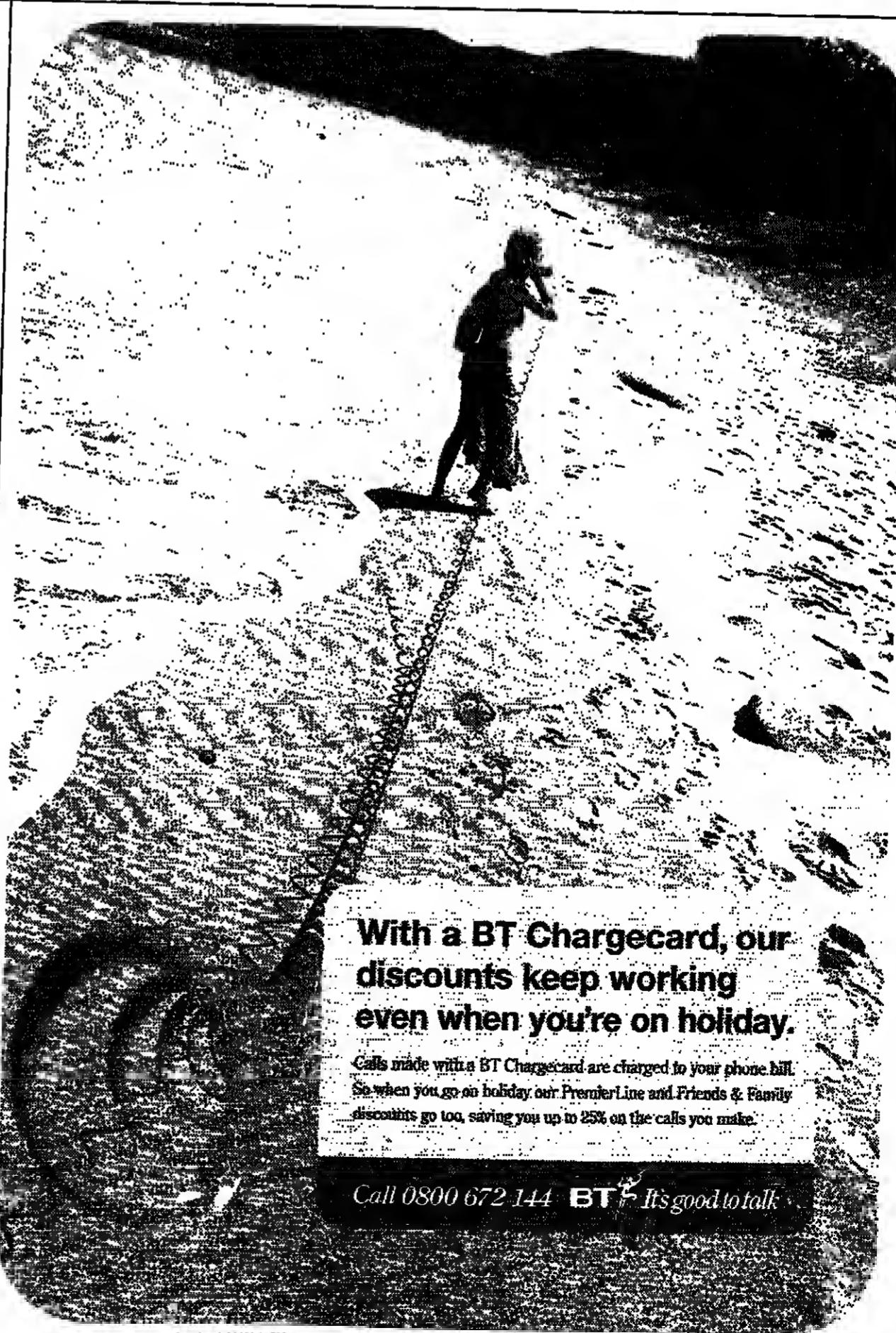
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## Two mothers found bound and shot dead

By JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

Whatever happened, she can't have deserved this.

Detectives are waiting for forensic experts to test the bullets used in the killings to discover whether they came from the same gun.

In the most recent murder Michelle Carby, 35, was found at her home in east London by her three children on Tuesday. She had her hands and ankles bound and had been shot twice.

The murder has striking similarities to the death on Saturday of Avril Johnson, 30, a mother of two children. She was shot after being tied up in her home in Brixton, south London, by a gang of men.

Two separate murder inquiries have been set up by Scotland Yard but the teams of detectives are liaising with each other.

Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Kay, who is heading the Carby murder inquiry, said: "There are obvious parallels [between] the two cases. We are looking at the finer details, but the telling thing will be the forensic examination of the bullets and cartridge cases to see whether there is a link." The results are expected in a few days.

Ms Carby, a single mother whose parents are from Jamaica, was found bound in the lounge of their home in Alma Street, Stratford, when her children, a girl aged 12, and two boys, aged 10 and four, awoke. At first they thought she was sleeping.

Sharon Burchill, 28, a neighbour, recalled: "It was a heartbreaking scene. The children were in the street in their night-clothes.

"They had obviously just got up. They were crying and saying: 'We can't wake our mummy up.' I can't think of anything worse for the three children.

The police believed the killing could be drug-related and are examining possible links with gangsters in south London.

Detective Chief Inspector Steve Kupis, who is in charge of the inquiry, named Operation Trident, said: "This was a most callous killing. It is hard to imagine a more callous type of crime."

Operation Trident was set up earlier this year to tackle gun crime in Lambeth.

The number of murders in London rose by a quarter in the past year to 160. This compares to 127 for the same period the year before.

Anyone with any information should call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 555.

mother of three children. We urgently need the assistance of the public to trace the person or persons responsible for this callous killing."

In the second murder, Avril Johnson was shot next to her 31-year-old husband and daughters, aged 18 months and seven years old.

The attackers knocked on the front door of their flat in Cressingham Gardens at about 10pm on Thursday last week. When the door was answered four men pushed their way inside and threatened the couple and children with a gun and a knife and forced them into the bedroom.

The husband and wife had their hands and feet tied and their children were told to get underneath the bed.

The suspects demanded money and jewellery and then shot Mrs Johnson in the head and cut her husband on the neck before running out of the flat with a few hundred pounds and some jewellery.

Mrs Johnson was taken to hospital and died two days later. The man's injuries were not serious and the children were unharmed.

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Anyone with any information should call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 555.



Michelle Carby's home in Stratford, east London

## Passions roused by tagging of calves and some fishy business

THURSDAYS IN Parliament are lucky dip days and yesterday was no exception.

The House of Commons kicked off with agriculture questions, which themselves provide a rag-bag of issues. Desmond Swaine (C, New Forest West) began with a defence of calves who have to have both ears tagged at birth. He was concerned that a particular breed, the Dexter, had ears smaller than the tags, which snag and tear into the soft flesh. He demanded electronic and more humane methods of identification.

The fish-loving Austin Mitchell (Lab, Great Grimsby) always gets an easy time from ministers be-

cause he is the only MP who knows anything about fish. Fisheries ministers come and go; governments come and go but Grimsby, Austin Mitchell and fish go on for ever.

For 14 years, I was Mr Mitchell's neighbour and shared the problems of representing a fishing community. Every month (it seemed like every day) he would be on the phone to me demanding a meeting with a fisheries minister. Assiduous does not begin to describe his fanaticism. He leads representations, he leads delegations and he leads delegations. I am sure that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has a rabbit hole in the corner of the fisheries office where Mr

Mitchell lives. Ministers probably have nightmares that he is in their bedroom but I would not be surprised if they wake up to find him actually in there demanding an increase in haddock quotas.

The fishing industry has more than its fair share of jargon: beam trawlers; mesh sizes; cod quotas; White Fish Authority; Sea Fish Authority; Fisheries Council; total allowable catches; Norwegian Box; black fish (nasty) and Spanish fishermen (very, very nasty).

All of these matters were discussed regularly in ministers' offices and I would tag along. I am now going to make a confession. While Mr Mitchell ranted and

never ever knew a single technical detail about this strange industry.

Mr Mitchell was at it again yesterday berating Elliot Morley, the Fisheries minister, demanding a "level fishing ground" and hammering the European Union.

There was a general Tory attack on the Minister of Agriculture, Jack Cunningham, regarding the fall in farm incomes, led by new storm-trooper John Bercow (Con, Buckingham), who elicited the information that they have fallen by 37 per cent in real terms since Labour came to power.

Mr Cunningham may be popular in Parliament but apparently he is not popular among farmers. It was

alleged by Ian Bruce (C, South Dorset) that he is going to only one agricultural show this summer, with his junior ministers for protection, for fear of being lynched by farmers.

Good heavens; have we got to the point when Farmer Giles and all his colleagues actually yearn for the halcyon days of Douglas Hogg?

The Agriculture minister Jeff Rooker may have a good excuse for visiting these shows. He told a bemused House he had just returned from the Sprays and Sprayers' Exhibition in Cambridgeshire. After that, he can be forgiven for never visiting an agricultural show again.

The House moved on to Attorney General's questions where mild-

mannered John Morris is enjoying an Indian summer of a career. Elected in 1959, he is the longest-serving Labour member, having served throughout the governments of 1964-70 and 1974-79.

He was responding to another senior backbencher, Sir Sidney Chapman (C, Chipping Barnet), who is enjoying a political renaissance after being first elected 25 years ago. Sir Sidney served as a government whip with me, in 1993, and I was recently looking at the "school photo" of that year. Of the 14 Tory whips in the picture only three are still in parliament. The rest are dead or defeated. Sir Sidney is one of the three. May he live and reign for ever.

## Blair faces another rebellion in Lords

### EDUCATION

By FRAN ABRAMS  
Political Correspondent

THE Government faced more trouble in the House of Lords last night as two defeats over school reforms coincided with a conflict over student fees.

Peers defeated the Government twice over plans for changes to primary school governing bodies. They voted to allow village and split-site schools that have shared governing bodies to continue with their present arrangements and to give parish and town councils a governor seat.

The House of Lords Education Minister, Baroness Blackstone, opposed the first amendment on grounds that individual governing bodies would have a "clearer focus" in raising educational standards. But it was passed by 95-91.

The second defeat came less than 40 minutes later when peers backed an amendment from the Tory education spokesman, Baroness Blatch, to retain parish and town councils' right to nominate representatives to the governing bodies of primary schools.

Lady Blatch, a former education minister, said parish and town councils meant much more to schools in terms of community spirit than local education authorities.

The defeats brought the defeats inflicted by peers on ministers since they came to power in May last year to 26, and came after last night's Commons decision to confront the Lords over fourth-year tuition fees at Scottish universities.

Despite a Liberal Democrat compromise amendment to be tabled on Tuesday, it seems possible the two houses will remain locked on the fees issue.



The independent MP Martin Bell checks his attire before receiving an honorary degree at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen yesterday Doug Moir

## Defence budget cut by £500m

### SPENDING REVIEW

By COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

Germany. The forces no longer need to defend the Western front against attack by the former Soviet Union, but Mr Robertson - backed by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary - has argued for more flexible, hard-hitting forces, deploying frigates on operational missions and providing humanitarian aid with the back-up of force in the world's trouble-spots.

Mr Robertson has won a battle to include two new £80m aircraft carriers in his plans to be announced on Wednesday to restore some of Britain's traditional maritime role, at the cost of shrinking the tank force in

Tony Blair has told Cabinet colleagues that they would see "imaginative and radical" proposals to modernise government services when two critical reviews are published in the next fortnight.

The Comprehensive Spending Review is to be announced by the Chancellor on 15 July. The Prime Minister has invited all ministers to an end-of-term party on 15 July at Downing Street, followed possibly a week later by a reshuffle, which is expected to see

substantial changes at middle-ranking level but few changes in the Cabinet.

All the Cabinet ministers involved in the review of spending will bear the extent of the cuts in their budgets, but Mr Blair told the Cabinet yesterday that the big gainers - Frank Dobson at health and David Blunkett at education - were gaining more money in return for a radical change in arts strategy.

The losers are expected to include Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, who has been bidding for an extra £30m, and it appears too soon to make big savings on the social security budget under Harriet Harman, who is at the start of major reviews.

Office programme. *The Independent* reported yesterday that Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, has also secured a small increase in return for a radical change in arts strategy.

The losers are expected to include Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, who has been bidding for an extra £30m, and it appears too soon to make big savings on the social security budget under Harriet Harman, who is at the start of major reviews.

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£100,000+	6.83	5.46

Gross: the rate before the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings. Net: the rate after the deduction of tax applicable to interest on savings accounts, currently 20%. Higher rate, tax payers will have an additional liability.

(1) This product is no longer available to new customers.

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### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### Sponsors for five Dome zones

FIVE OUT of the 11 zones in the Millennium Dome have been sponsored. Peter Mandelson announced last night. The deals have raised over £100m and the New Millennium Experience Company is in advanced discussion with sponsors for a further five zones. Manpower has sponsored the Work zone, Tesco the Learn zone, BSkyB the Play zone, BT the Talk zone and Marks and Spencer is a part sponsor of the National Identity zone.

#### Packaging costs

A REPORT was published yesterday, commissioned by the Government, looking at keeping the costs of co-operating with an EU packaging directive to a minimum. A committee concluded that adjustments to packaging regulations should be kept to a minimum in view of the short timescale for achieving the directive targets, which are set for 2001. The Government wishes to double the UK's packaging recycling activity.

#### Borders win help

THE SCOTTISH borders area is to receive a new package of support to help it develop its economy, the Scottish Office minister Brian Wilson said. He told Argyll Kirkwood (Lib Dem, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) that Scottish Borders Enterprise would get an extra £1m to set up a Rural Inward Investment Team.



Admiral Stansfield Turner yesterday Glynne Griffiths

## US 'should drop nuclear pledge'

### DEFENCE

By FRAN ABRAMS

Admiral Turner told an audience of about 50 MPs that nuclear weapons were not the problem of the whole world, not of Russia and the US alone.

He argued that with anti-nuclear treaties moving at "glacial speed", the special relationship between Britain and the US should be used to push the disarmament process forward.

Instead of waiting for the formal process to be complete, nuclear nations could take part in "strategic escrow", the admiral said.

That would involve warheads gradually being placed in store under international inspection so that although their owners would have access to them they would not be ready for immediate use.



THE HOUSE

### New rules for maintenance payments by absent parents

MINISTERS HAVE agreed a radical overhaul of the Child Support Agency which will simplify maintenance awards by introducing a fixed formula of payments for absent parents. Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, will announce in the Commons on Monday plans to hand each lone parent a fixed percentage of the absent parent's income for a first child. A lower fixed percentage of earnings will be awarded for second and third children but no payments will be made for subsequent children.

### Hague returns on Monday

WILLIAM HAGUE, who has been off sick for a fortnight, will be back at work from Monday, his spokesman said. The Conservative leader has been at home watching tennis and football while convalescing from an operation to drain blocked sinuses last Thursday.

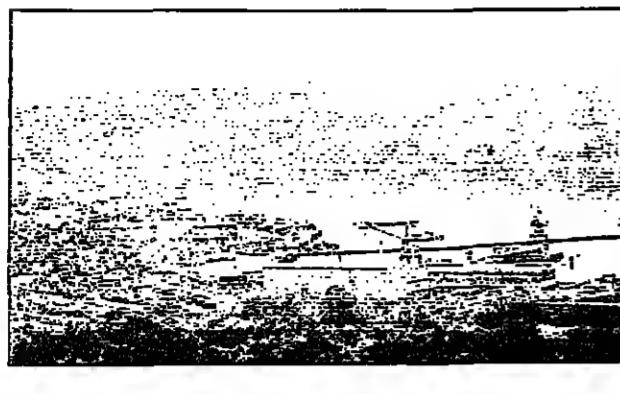
### Today in Parliament

#### Commons

Fireworks Bill, Lords amendments (Linda Gilroy, Lab, Plymouth Sutton) Pesticides Bill, Lords amendments (Ben Bradshaw, Lab, Exeter) Third Reading of Waste Minimisation Bill Lords Not sitting



# Last peace camp prepares for its final battle



THE phone barely stopped ringing yesterday in the floral-painted caravan opposite the Royal Navy's nuclear submarine base at Faslane on the Gare Loch. When the Sheriff's men move in to try to clear Britain's last peace camp, they can expect stiff resistance.

"Disco Dave", a veteran of the Manchester airport protest, and Danny Fairley were re-siting one of the caravans, hoping to make the eviction more time-consuming and expensive. With two tunnels, one barred by a steel door and containing supplies for a month, 30 "lock-ons", most of them set in concrete, and tree-top ropeways to be overcome, the campaigners think it could cost the council £300,000 to evict them.

"They look like they are really going to go for it this time," said Danny, 32, from Blantyre, who has been at the camp for seven months. "We are prepared for non-violent confrontation - this is a peace camp remember - but some of the security people can be pretty heavy-handed."

Danny said most local people would like to be rid of the

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN  
Scotland Correspondent

"They" are Argyll and Bute District Council, which this week won the latest round in a court battle to get the protesters evicted. The camp, a colourful if somewhat ragged assembly of caravans, benders and wooden shacks, has occupied a strip of land by the A814, about half a mile from the base, for almost 18 years.

Tourists do a double-take as they drive past an official-looking sign warning "Danger! Trident unsafe, keep away"; then they see the others, "No nukes is good nukes", and the camp behind a thin screen of pines and birches.

Under the old socialists of Strathclyde Regional Council, the protesters had a lease to the site. But local-government reorganisation brought councillors of a different political hue and two years ago Argyll and Bute decided it wanted them out, condemning the camp as "unsightly".

Danny said most local people would like to be rid of the



The Royal Navy's Faslane submarine base (above left) and one of the defensive tunnels that anti-nuclear protesters have dug at the peace camp. Mike Gibbons/Spindrift

base - an anti-nuclear stance shared by most of Scotland. "But some of them don't like the way we live." The camp certainly has a New Age look to it. Danny is barefoot and, to judge by supplies stacked in a

shed, the place exists on tins of haricot and red kidney beans. About a dozen protesters are around most of the time, but with an eviction attempt looming, numbers are expected to swell. Dave thinks

they could depend on maybe 100 after the court appeal deadline of 17 July. Lynn Burke, 45, a New Zealander who has been an occasional visitor to the camp for five years, said she would stay on

the site until the showdown. A passionate anti-nuclear campaigner, she hoped her eight-year-old daughter would not be present when the Sheriff's officers move in. Susan Main, the council's head of legal ser-

vices, said there would be no immediate attempt at eviction. Council members would first have to determine how they wanted to enforce the court ruling. But there seems no doubt that the intention to do

so. Convenor John Wilson said the time had come. "The camp is not a very bonny place," he added, but campaigners retort that a grey-painted nuclear base must be the bigger environmental threat.

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## Outrage over 'humiliation' of prisoner

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

vice does not seem to be learning from its past mistakes."

The female remand prisoner was being held at Risley prison in Cheshire. She was transferred to the prison's segregation unit after causing damage to her cell. But she was moved to a bare cell which Risley's deputy governor later conceded "breaches the sanitation requirements" because it had no toilet or running water.

The woman was made to strip because a piece of metal was missing from her own cell.

After she refused on principle to put on a canvas "strip dress" and wrapped herself in a blanket, staff would not allow her food and drink or access to toilet and washing facilities.

The woman, who was also menstruating, was later found by a female member of staff who took pity on her because she was using paper cups as a toilet in the absence of even a chamber pot in the cell.

In his report on the case, Sir Peter said: "I am still uphold almost half of the complaints I investigated and am increasingly concerned that the Prison Ser-

tions might form the basis of disciplinary charges."

In his annual report yesterday, Sir Peter said he noted with "disappointment" that no disciplinary action seemed to have been taken. He said the Prison Service had told him that Mr Tilt would only apologise personally in "the most exceptional circumstances".

But Sir Peter commented: "Given the shocking nature of my findings and the fact that it was the first time I had recommended that disciplinary action against staff be considered, it is difficult to see why this case was not considered exceptional by the Prison Service."

The Prison Service said the prisoner had been "disruptive" and had refused to comply with staff instruction. It said it had apologised to the woman and two members of staff had "received advice" bout "appropriate banding" of such incidents in future.

Last year, the Prison Service received 1,960 complaints which led to 553 investigations, a slight increase in the previous two years, but not as great as the increase in the prison population during the same period. It upheld 44 per cent of complaints investigated.

## Unmarried fathers to be given full parental rights

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

the Tavistock Marital Studies Institute.

Under current law, married parents have equal parental rights to take decisions about the child's upbringing. But where parents are unmarried, the mother has the sole right. The fact that father's name appears on the birth certificate makes no difference.

The Lord Chancellor has decided to change the law to reflect the fact that marriage is no longer seen as a prerequisite for having children. More than one in three babies - 35.8

per cent in 1996 - are born to unmarried parents, though most are in stable relationships.

Mr Hoon said: "The majority of unmarried fathers sign the birth register jointly with the mother. In doing so, they are making a commitment. Many assume that this automatically gives them the statutory rights of a married father. I fact it does not." Unmarried fathers can acquire rights on entry into a parental relationship.

The reform is likely to be included in the Modernisation of Justice Bill planned to be introduced in the autumn.

**DONALD MACINTYRE**

*Standing up to tyrants and dictators does not go down badly in the modern Labour Party*

THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3

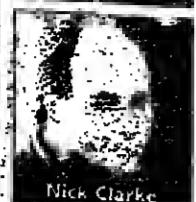


## THE MEDIA MESSAGE: WHICH PROGRAMMES ARE THE MOST INFLUENTIAL?



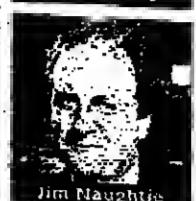
**Newsnight - BBC 2, 10.40pm**  
BBC 2's current affairs flagship anchored by the tenacious Jeremy Paxman or Kirsty Wark. Recent appearances from Mo Mowlam, John Prescott and Frank Dobson. Campbell's comments: "What is the point of traipsing out to W12 late at night so Jeremy can try to persuade the public that I'm some kind of criminal?"

**Marks out of 10: 8.**



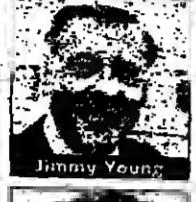
**World at One - Radio 4**  
In-depth analysis of the day's breaking news story, which is often political, combined with round-up of general news. Dismissed by Campbell as "Very few people in politics or the media take it seriously"

**Marks out of 10: 5.**



**Today - Radio 4 breakfast programme**  
Beloved of the establishment, the Today programme forms opinions for the opinion formers and sets the agenda for the day. Still vulnerable to doubts that under the new look Radio 4 it will dumb down and pander over a move from W1 to White City. Campbell comments: none, but John Humphreys is repeatedly accused of monstering guests.

**Marks out of 10: 9.**



**Jimmy Young - Radio 2, mornings**  
Veteran of the morning interview - famously with Mrs Thatcher - Young is the Daily Mail of BBC current affairs, but nonetheless incisive for that. Campbell comments: "Anyone who suggests Jimmy Young is a soft interviewers knows nothing about interviewing."

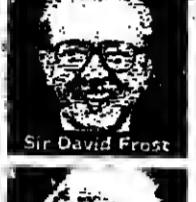
**Marks out of 10: 7.**



**Des O'Connor Tonight - ITV prime-time**  
Not so much hard hitting political comment as woolly sweaters on a couch telling pre-planned punchlines. Des, as long as he doesn't sing, is adored by middle England and, it appears, Tony Blair who appeared to swap anecdotes last month. Campbell comments:

These programmes are watched by millions of people, many of whom do not follow politics closely."

**Marks out of 10: 2.**



**Breakfast with Frost - BBC 1 Sunday morning**  
Sir David Frost has interviewed just about everybody. Although he is occasionally accused of giving premiers an easy ride, just like every other interviewers, Frost is a must-see for those of a political persuasion who are up at that time on a Sunday.

**Marks out of 10: 9.**



**On The Record - BBC 1 Sunday lunchtime**  
Political magazine show, hosted by John Humphreys with a mix of filmed reports plus a key interview with a cabinet member. Although only reaches around 1 million viewers, it is seen as an authoritative round up of workings of Westminster.

**Marks out of 10: 7.**



## Build all homes in town, say planners

**MOST NEW** houses in the South-east should and could be built in towns instead of the countryside, the region's leading planner said yesterday.

After 2006, when a new regional planning strategy comes into effect, homes in crowded counties such as Berkshire and Surrey should be allocated greenfield sites only when local authorities "cannot possibly find any urban space", said Brian Wilson, director of Serplan, the South-east regional planning conference of local authorities.

Councils would have to pass a "very very stiff test" if they wanted to put housing in the countryside, he said.

Mr Wilson said on BBC Radio Four's "Today" programme: "Town centres have been exploding and scattering out-of-town shopping business parks, science parks, big leisure complexes, out into the green fields around the towns."

"Even in the South-east, urban areas are in decline. We want to reverse that process, create a more sustainable pattern of development and promote the idea of urban renaissance in our towns. What we're saying is that from now on, the additional houses should be accommodated - and could be accommodated - within the urban areas."

Asked if he meant all of them, he said: "Yes, all of the additional houses from now on in the South-east."

He went on: "We've been doing a lot of work recently in London and looking at how we could make better use of urban space at a lot of the new conversions in London. Perhaps we're talking about 'brown buildings' as much as 'brown land' - recycling buildings. All urban areas have a proportion

of those sorts of buildings which could be converted to housing."

Later, Mr Wilson explained that the words "from now on" referred to the next South-east planning strategy, currently under discussion, which will take the region from 2006 to 2016.

In the current strategy, which runs from 1991 to 2006, provision has been made for 555,000 houses to be built in the region. It is thought that about half of them will be built on greenfield sites. Many have already been built.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England also called yesterday for a radical reform of the way new homes are planned and built, saying that the housing planning system was deeply flawed and skewed in favour of builders.

Rural land was earmarked for development decades in advance of when it was needed, the CPRE said. The actual rates of building were not properly controlled and builders were largely ignoring the massive potential for housing offered by towns. Empty housing stock was also ignored.

In a new report, *House of Cards*, the council said: "There are twice as many empty homes in England as houses in Birmingham. Almost one in 20 homes in the North-west lies empty while new building on greenfield sites continues."

The report says England pays more attention to recycling old newspapers and bottles than to recycling its homes. It also highlights continuing pressure on the green belt for new settlements, and ribbon development along transport corridors.

## Paxman and Campbell in TV news war

A WAR of words has broken out between the BBC and the Government over the appearance of ministers on flagship news programmes.

In a row which seems to mirror the Tories' oft-repeated claims of BBC bias, the Prime Minister's press secretary has rubbished some of the BBC's flagship programmes. In return, the BBC has implied the Government is encouraging ministers to choose daytime TV over *Newsnight*.

The spat began with an article in the Times suggesting

BY JANINE GIBSON  
Media Correspondent

that ministers were avoiding potential difficulties by eschewing serious news programmes in favour of cosy, sofa-based chats. The accusation follows the appearance of Prime Minister Tony Blair on the ITV variety show *Des O'Connor Tonight*.

His press secretary, Alistair Campbell, responded to the Times in an explosive letter which was presumably designed to cause a stir. Dis-

missing Radio 4's *The World at One* as not taken seriously by politicians or the media. Campbell went on to repeat a comment made to him by a minister about *Newsnight* questioning why he should appear "so Jeremy (Paxman) can try to persuade the public that I'm some kind of criminal".

He insisted, however, that he was not at war with the BBC and maintained that daytime programmes such as Radio 2's *Jimmy Young Show* were a valid forum for Government ministers. He explained: "Just

because daytime TV presenters ask questions which reflect what their audiences are interested in doesn't mean those questions are soft."

BBC head of news Richard Clemmow fired back a carefully-worded letter, warning "we think it would be a disservice to audiences and individuals if any Government were to adopt a policy of restricting ministerial appearances to only those shows with mass audiences or only those where the questioning failed to meet the standard of rigour that BBC news

programmes set themselves".

In yesterday's London Evening Standard, *Newsnight* anchor Jeremy Paxman joined the fray: "He [Campbell] can think what he likes about *The World at One*, but as far as my own programme is concerned, his remarks are, to use his own characteristically sophisticated term in lobby briefings, 'crap - that's C.R.A.P.'

The extraordinary clashes between Mr Campbell and the BBC's news and current affairs department signals a dramat-

ic cooling of relations between new Labour and the BBC.

Yesterday, however, Mr Campbell attempted to play down his comments. He strongly denied there was any rift between himself and the BBC, but defended his right to sound off against the corporation from time to time.

"I am the Prime Minister's spokesman and chief press secretary. I am entitled to have views about the media. We try to make sure we think up new ways of communicating to the public."

## Peter Hall to return as trust saves the Old Vic



Sir Peter Hall at The Old Vic Kippa Mathews

BY DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

THE OLD Vic in London, one of the country's most famous theatres, has been saved for the nation. A trust which includes two leading figures in British theatre has bought The Old Vic for £3.5m.

It will be a receiving house, not a producing theatre with its own company generating its own plays, but the trust is committed to it staging top-class plays from leading companies. An artistic director has not yet been appointed.

One of the first productions to be staged there under the new regime will be Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus*, directed by Sir Peter Hall and starring David Suchet, in the autumn.

The theatre was owned by the Canadian father and son Ed and David Mirvish. After they decided to sell last year, there were rumours that the building would cease to be a theatre. The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Chris Smith, made a public plea last February for The Old Vic to be saved.

Now, a trust chaired by Alexander Bernstein, former chairman of Granada, and including Stephen Daldry, director of the Royal Court, and Sally Greene, West End impresario, has bought the theatre from

the Canadians for £3.5m. An initial £1.5m, raised from private sources, has been paid and a further payment of £2m will be needed in 21 months. It is likely the trust will seek lottery money.

Sir Peter Hall ran an artistically acclaimed season at The Old Vic last year. But the trust's plans do not appear to include his return with his repertory company in the near future.

Mr Smith said yesterday: "In February, I called for someone to rescue the theatre. The Old Vic Theatre Trust's plan shows the energy and determination needed for the task. I am truly thrilled that this has happened and am confident that this marks the start of an exciting new era for a great British theatre."

The Old Vic opened in 1818. In 1912 it began one of its most celebrated eras under Lillian Baylis, performing all of Shakespeare's works. It remained the London home for Shakespeare until 1963 when it became the home for the National Theatre under Sir Laurence Olivier. The Sixties at The Old Vic were the NT's golden age.

Stephen Daldry said yesterday: "The Old Vic needs once again to be the creative powerhouse behind British theatre. The new charitable status ... will place it in a position to stage the best work in the country."

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

the woman donor's original brain cancer, called a glioblastoma.

However, both the woman's kidneys were also donated to two separate patients who are doing well with no signs of cancer more than four years after the transplant.

Two US specialists say in a

known to have occurred and other organs, including kidneys have also been linked with the transmission of glioblastoma in a few cases.

They say the low risk of tumour transmission should be compared to the individual's probability of death without a transplant. Organs from donors with brain cancer could be offered to those who would die without an immediate transplant, they say.

known to have occurred and other organs, including kidneys have also been linked with the transmission of glioblastoma in a few cases.

Two US specialists say in a commentary on the case that there are too few organs available for transplant for the pol-

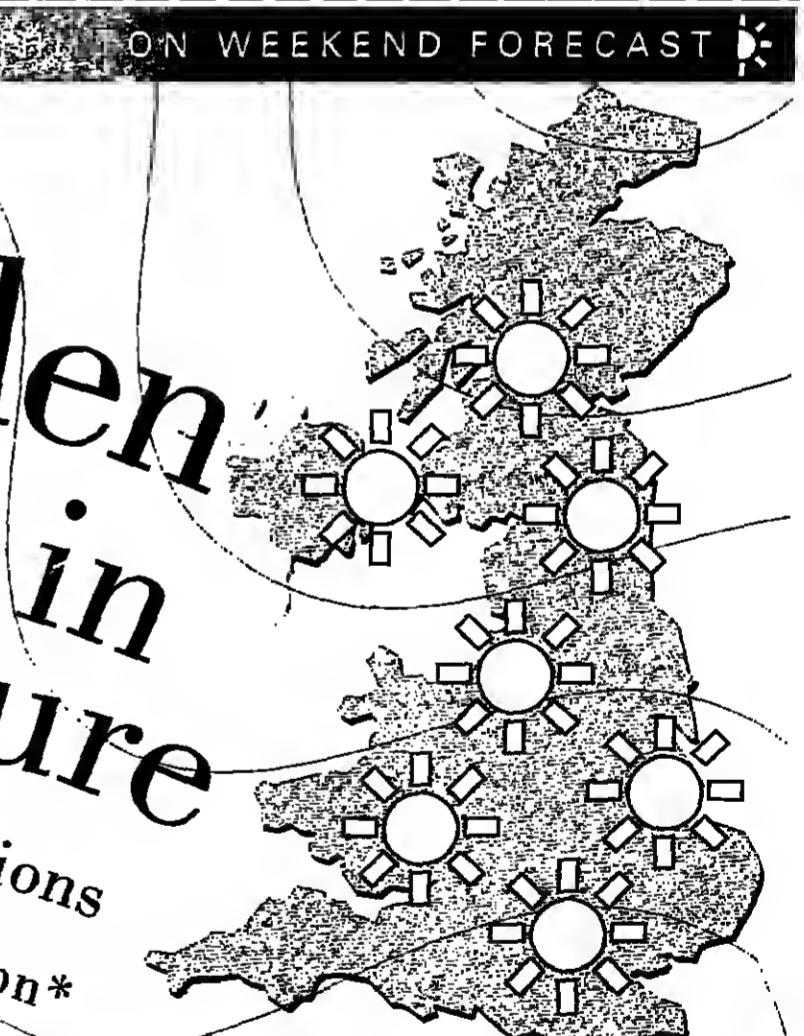
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# Aids virus can defeat 'wonder-drugs'

THE DISCOVERY of a strain of Aids virus that is resistant to the latest batch of anti-HIV drugs has created fresh pessimism amongst scientists attending the international Aids conference in Geneva, which ends today.

Although many of them expected a form of HIV to emerge which would prove resistant to the existing arsenal of anti-viral drugs, many did not believe it would happen just two years after the introduction of the most successful Aids treatment.

to date. Combination therapy, where two or more drugs are given simultaneously, has cut death rates by nearly a half and given a new lease of life to Aids patients. Some of those who were seriously ill have even been able to return to work.

The latest anti-HIV drugs, called protease inhibitors, play a critical role in combination therapy which is why scientists were disappointed to hear that

HIV has already managed to become resistant to them.

Frederick Hecht, assistant clinical professor of medicine at the San Francisco General Hospital, reported at the conference that a middle-aged gay man living in San Francisco was infected with a form of HIV that had developed resistance against six of the eleven approved drugs for treating Aids, including four of the new protease inhibitor treatment.

Professor Hecht said:

The details of the study are

to be published later this month in the *New England Journal of Medicine* but they were released early at the International Aids Conference in Geneva because of their significance.

"We still don't know how frequently resistant strains are transmitted. But we now know that people can acquire strains with multi-drug resistance, including resistance to protease inhibitor treatment,"

Two years ago, at the last

Aids conference in Vancouver,

the early trials of combination therapy with protease inhibitors had created near euphoria. Some had even dared to use the "c" word, suggesting it was the next best thing to a cure.

However, seasoned Aids researchers know that the virus's ability to mutate into new disguises means that the emergence of drug-resistant forms was only a matter of time. The two previous classes of Aids drugs, the nucleoside analogues such as AZT and the reverse transcriptase inhibitors,

have both suffered from resistance problems.

"Sexual transmission of a multiple-drug resistant form of HIV was highly anticipated," said Dr Anthony Fauci, a veteran Aids researcher at the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease near Washington DC.

"This is a wake-up call warning people who incorrectly assume that if they catch the virus it will be easy to treat. That may not be the case," Dr Fauci said.

Part of the initial optimism about combination therapy stemmed from it causing levels of the virus to fall below the limits of detection, raising the possibility that the drugs may even have eliminated it entirely from the body.

It is now known, however, that combination therapy still allows latent pools of HIV to remain viable inside certain cells of the immune system which are left untouched by the drugs.

"It is going to be much more difficult to eradicate the pool of

hidden cells than originally thought. Virtually everyone has a pool of latent infected cells and they seem to be a very long-lived reservoir," Dr Fauci said.

"Our group and others are pursuing studies to identify and treat people recently exposed to HIV before the burst of virus replication, which occurs in most patients soon after infection. Such studies will help to determine whether it will be possible to prevent the early establishment of latent pools of HIV," he said.

## Action at last to save Britain's threatened hedgerows

NEW REGULATIONS to protect Britain's vanishing hedgerows were proposed yesterday, only a week after a Herefordshire farmer became the first person to be fined for digging hedges up.

The 1997 Hedgerow Regulations, brought in to protect hedges after a campaign lasting nearly a decade, should be made simpler and stronger, said a group of experts set up to review them.

Their report was published by the Environment minister, Michael Meacher, who promised that a new set of draft regulations would be drawn up for consultation. "Hedgerows are a much-loved part of our countryside heritage and a habitat rich in biodiversity," he said. "And yet the last survey, in 1993, showed that over 3,500 kilometres (2,200 miles) were being grubbed out each year."

The 1997 regulations have just begun to bite, with the conviction at Leominster magistrates' court last week of Ian Prior, a farmer, who was fined £2,000 with £4,000 costs for taking out half a mile of hedges on his farm in Golden Valley, Herefordshire.

Mr Prior and his wife, Robbie, have since been receiving hate mail and abusive telephone calls.

"It's been just awful," he said

yesterday. Mrs Prior added: "We have had hate letters and hate phone calls. It's ridiculous. We've been treated worse than people who have murdered."

The regulations were brought in because of the enormous hedgerow losses in the post-war English countryside, which reached a peak in the late 1980s when farmers were receiving subsidies from Brussels to grub hedges out.

It has been estimated that in 1955, Britain had 620,000 miles of hedges - while the latest (1993) estimate from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology was that the figure now down to 236,000 miles.

In eastern England in particular, vast prairies were created by "barley barons", largely devoid of the wildlife for which hedgerows provide much shelter.

On his own 295-acre mixed farm Mr Prior was attempting something much less dramatic: to turn seven small fields into two larger and more profitable ones for crop growing of about 20 acres each.

But Herefordshire Council said the hedges be removed were medieval in origin and thus important landscape features covered by the regulations.

It prosecuted, and Mr Prior became the first landowner in Britain to fall foul of the new law.

After the court hearing, the council leader, Terry James, said the case should act as a warning to all landowners.

"We will not tolerate the wilful destruction of the environment for personal gain," he said. "The evidence shows that this landowner has destroyed valuable hedgerows, not only

obliterating an historic field system which has dominated this landscape for centuries, but also destroying a valuable habitat for wildlife. Farmers have a huge responsibility as custodians of our countryside."

Mr Prior, however, is adamant that the hedges he removed were not medieval. "They were hedges planted under the Enclosure Act in about the 1850s," he said yesterday on his farm in the foothills of the Welsh border.

They had big gaps in them and we told the council we would be replanting more than we were taking out."

Mr Prior said that he gave the council the six weeks notice of his intention to remove them required under the regulations, and that they only contacted him, asking him to desist, the day the notice expired.

He thus thought he was not breaking the law when he went ahead. But the council had received his letter later than he thought and in fact he was still inside the notice period - and was convicted.

"We feel a bit shell-shocked," said Mr Prior. "It's not as if we're against wildlife - we're going to join the Government's countryside stewardship scheme."

"And the bigger fields we

were making are better for wildlife because you can leave a bigger margin all the way round. You have to work small fields right to the edge.

"We are just trying to make a living in farming, which isn't a very clever business to be in at the moment."

Mr Prior is even more distressed by the abuse. "It has become a storm in a tea cup," she said. "We have lived here for 11 years and no one ever

said anything about the hedge. No one mentioned it until all this hoop-hoo. People get very excited about a medieval hedge and they visualise a 12-foot-thick hedge, not a gappy hawthorn that has been eaten by horses and sheep."

"We are not destroyers of the countryside. We have dug ponds and planted hedges. We are not evil people. We just wanted to reorganise things to make the farm work better."

Long-established hedgerows are disappearing so fast that new laws have been brought in to protect them

Tom Pilston

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## Scientists cast doubt on mobile phone dangers

By CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

waves. They also questioned the researchers' unwillingness to publish their results in leading peer-reviewed journals such as *Nature* and *Science*.

"We do not want to comment on particular devices," said Dr Mike Clark of the National Radiological Protection Board, yesterday. "It will only lead to solicitors' letters. But in general, there is a lot of New Age nonsense out there - prisms and God knows what."

"I'm extremely sceptical as to what these effects are meant to be," said Tom Wills-Sanford, director of the Federation of Electronic Industries, whose

members make mobile phones.

"We in this industry do treat concerns seriously, but to get scientific respect they need to get this stuff peer-reviewed properly."

However, the French researchers, Maurice Fillion-Robin and Gilles Pickard, said they would not submit their work to the leading journals, claiming that those publications have "an agenda on the matter of mobile phones and their effects on health."

Mr Pickard and Mr Fillion-Robin said that instead their work is peer-reviewed and published in a magazine called the *BEMS Journal*, printed by the Bioelectromagnetic Society. This specialises in apparently

scientific articles about effects of electromagnetic fields.

In their explanation of the function of their £29 "Electromagnetic Bioprotection Antenna", Mr Pickard and Mr Fillion-Robin said it acts as a compensatory emitter capable of counteracting biological effects from electromagnetic pollution."

However, they could not explain how salt water can emit, or compensate for the signals put out by a phone, nor how that could compensate for the increasing levels of electromagnetic fields that people live with every day - and that there is no evidence of any link between use of mobile phones and any diagnosable illness.

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### TEN MYTHS ABOUT MOBILES

#### THE MYTH

1 They cause brain tumours - look at all those people who used phones and are ill

#### THE FACT

Despite individual cases, there's no scientific evidence that it's anything but chance

2 They are so powerful they literally fry your brain

Mobile phones typically have an output of 1 watt - which is calculated to cause heating in the brain of fractions of a degree, less than normal exercise

3 You're safer using them in a car because it shields you from the radiation

Phones actually increase their output in a car: if you think you're at risk from a normal phone, in a car it must be greater

4 Using them in a car doesn't affect your driving skills

You are 3 to 4 times more likely to have an accident within 10 minutes of starting a conversation on a mobile

5 It's the base stations that are really dangerous

At ground level, the emissions from base stations are equal to about 1 millionth of a watt

6 The incidence of brain tumours is rising because of mobiles

There's no evidence of a rise among young people - any increase is among people in their 70s

7 Police can track you because your phone 'identifies' itself

Only if it's switched on, and even then only every half hour

8 Using them gives you headaches

People get headaches without mobile phones too - there's no evidence of a direct link

9 Analogue phones have more effects than digital ones

Experiments haven't found any differences

10 Nobody is really investigating the dangers

The Department of Health and the European Union are funding scientific studies to investigate what, if any, effects there are

is reduced from 10.5p to 10p. BT said it has been able to make the price cuts because the mobile companies have agreed to charge BT less for the connection.

It means that calls to all four mobile phone companies operating in the UK - Cellnet, Vodafone, One-to-One and Orange - will be charged at the same rate.

BT said that of the 32p-per-minute price charged at the time, 19p per minute was paid to Vodafone and Cellnet by BT, while BT kept 5.9p.

It argued that a 20p per minute price would provide all parties with an acceptable rate or return.

Vodafone, One-to-One and Orange - will be charged at the same rate.

In March Ofcom, the telecoms industry regulator, called for a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into the cost of calling mobile phones from fixed lines.

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It argued that a 20p per minute price would provide all parties with an acceptable rate or return.

### IT'S A ROLLOVER!

Draw date: 1/7/98. The winning numbers: 17, 18, 28, 40, 44, 46. Bonus number: 29.

Total Sales: £28,029,894. Prize Fund: £12,640,452 (45% of ticket sales).

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (jackpot)	0	-	£4,053,760
Match 5 plus bonus ball	7	£178,157	£1,247,300
Match 5	387	£2,013	£779,419
Match 4	24,417	£70	£1,709,190
Match 3	24,416	£10	£244,360
TOTALS	503,287		£12,640,452

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(see Friday Review, music section.)

لدى الامان









## Final home for a killer planned down to the last detail

**HOME FOR** Darrel Harris these days is New York State Penitentiary on Rikers Island, a small glob of land at the narrow end of Long Island Sound under the flight path into La Guardia airport. He is there just temporarily, however, while permanent digs are prepared for him at Clinton Prison, way up in the north near the Canadian border. Although permanent is not quite apt when you are talking about Death Row.

The decision by a Brooklyn jury last month to sentence Harris to death after it found him guilty of a triple murder in a nightclub in 1996 presented prison authorities with a problem. Because no one had been executed in the state since Eddie Lee Mays in 1963, it had nowhere to put him. The authorities hope to have the brand new Death Row at Clinton ready in time for his official sentencing on the 21 July.

After the reintroduction of the death penalty to the state three years ago, on the urging of its Republican governor, George Pataki, it was only a matter of time before the first candidate would emerge

### AMERICAN TIMES

#### NEW YORK

from the courts. The procedures for carrying out execution have mostly already been put in place. Most important is the method. Harris will be dispatched by lethal injection. To be more precise, he will receive doses of sodium pentothal, followed by Pavulon and finally potassium chloride.

Thus, New York has abandoned its rich history of executions by the flow of electricity. "Old Sparky", the chair that sent Mays on his way at Sing Sing prison is now an exhibit at a museum in suburban Washington DC. Among those who were strapped to the state's "hot seat" over the years were Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for espionage in 1953. The most gruesome day recorded at Sing Sing was 12 August 1912, when no fewer than seven men were sent to sizzle in a single day.

Those regretting the change may include the ghost of the industrialist George Westinghouse

who in 1886 engaged in competition with his rival Thomas Edison to determine what kind of electricity was best for killing – alternating or direct current. Westinghouse favoured alternating and won.

Most of the details of how Harris will spend his days at Clinton have also been settled. For example, he will be furnished with a one-ounce bar of soap to clean himself. He will be allowed to read the Bible and smoke cigars. He will not be permitted, however, to chew gum or wear his own clothes.

There is reason to be especially vigilant of Harris once he arrives in Clinton. He probably knows the rules of incarceration better than any prisoner; because he used to be a prison guard himself. Indeed, in 1987, he was awarded a medal of heroism for helping to quell an inmate uprising. As Jim Flateau, a New York Correctional spokesman recently observed, Harris "is very well aware of procedures, opera-



Darrel Harris receives his bravery award in 1987 from Ed Koch, the then mayor of New York City. *New York Daily News*

tions and the kinds of scams that inmates will try to accomplish."

Clinton was chosen for Harris, because it already has one building separated from all the others that has 48 cells for the most violent of its inmates. A line of 12 cells has been selected for the new Death Row. A sum of \$25,000 has been earmarked to upgrade three of them for the condemned. (It is assumed that others will quickly follow Har-

ris.) Each will have a back room with an en suite shower area and facilities for visitors. A back door will lead on to a Death Row exercise yard. The purpose is simple: to ensure that Harris does not so much as glimpse any other inmates in the prison. If he is having a sociable time at Rikers now, he had better make the most of it.

**SOMEONE** else in trouble with the law in New York is Jim Horacek, an electrician. His crime? He was spotted punching a police horse in the nose at a raucous protest rally in midtown Manhattan on Tuesday. The demonstration was staged by construction workers angry at the city's transport authority for hiring a non-union company for a giant project on the West Side. Horacek was charged with trying to injure a police horse and spent 15 hours behind bars before being released. No one is as excited by the incident as the *Daily News*; the tabloid gave it double-spread treatment yesterday. But then, the horse's name is *Daily News*! The joke, however, may finally be on the

News, struggling against competition from Rupert Murdoch's *New York Post*. *Daily News* I, who is apparently no worse for wear, has a nickname – Snooze.

**FINALLY**, an update for those who may have read our report last week about the Lincoln Center's battle with Chinese officialdom over the fate of a 400-year-old Chinese opera, *The Peony Pavilion*, which was to open at the centre on 7 July. For nearly two weeks the centre's director, Nigel Redden, has been in Shanghai trying to change the mind of Ma Bozin, the head of the city's Bureau of Culture, who at the 11th hour had decided the production was too "feudal" and "pornographic" for export to New York. Mr Redden had hoped President Bill Clinton's visit to Shanghai this week would sweeten the lady's mood. It did not and the centre has now officially given up hope of staging the 55-act classic. The remainder of a planned world tour for the opera, to Paris, Sydney and Hong Kong, is also in the balance. **DAVID USBORNE**

## FDR's memorial gains wheelchair

**VICE-PRESIDENT** Al Gore yesterday announced an addition to the year-old memorial complex in Washington DC to Franklin Delano Roosevelt: there is to be a new statue at the entrance depicting FDR in a wheelchair.

The absence of all but the most fleeting reference to President Roosevelt's paralysis was criticised by groups representing the disabled when the memorial opened last year, triggering a spirited national debate.

The architect and planners of the memorial, which comprises statues and plaques depicting episodes from FDR's life, argued that Roosevelt never used a wheelchair in public and insisted on hiding his disability from the public, going to great lengths to do so. They said he should be depicted as

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington



Franklin Delano Roosevelt

he was seen in public and wanted to be seen. The same view was taken by FDR's grandson Curtis Dall Roosevelt.

Disabled groups argued that to conceal Roosevelt's handicap sent the wrong message, suggesting a disability was shameful. That might be historically accurate, but times had changed. The truth about public figures should not be hidden and FDR's example could be an inspiration, showing that even severe disability is no bar to the highest office in the US.

An opinion poll conducted in 1995 showed almost three-quarters of Americans agreed, as did President Bill Clinton, who submitted legislation calling for the addition to the

memorial. Roosevelt was paralysed from the waist down by polio, which he contracted in 1921 when he was 39.

He reportedly met visitors standing with the help of two sticks or supported by helpers. He had a big wicker chair equipped with four small castors which he used indoors.

A depiction of the chair forms part of one of the Roosevelt sculptures in the memorial complex, and the two rear casters, which peep out from beneath FDR's wrap, are the only visible sign of the late President's disability.

The new statue will be funded by the National Organisation on Disability. It will cost \$1.5m, and will be funded by the National Organisation on Disability. Hugh Gallagher, a campaigner for the disabled who was a member of the committee that approved the addition and is himself paralysed from polio, said: "This is going to be the icon of the disabilities rights movement."



Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Basilica to celebrate a mass. *Paolo Cocco/Reuters*

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## Papal edict forces clergy to toe hard Vatican line

BY ANNE HANLEY

DEFYING HIS physical frailty, the Pope took on liberal clergy and Catholic teachers this week in a controversial edict which appears to remove any existing leeway for disagreement with the church's moral code.

In a new binding article,

known as a *motu proprio*, the Pope this week inserted into the church's legislation, known as

Canon Law, an oath that will

force teaching clergy and theologists to follow the Vatican

line much more closely in matters of faith, morals and ethics.

The oath itself is not new. It was first introduced in 1989, though it was not yet part of Canon Law. Even then it triggered protests from Catholic theologians who said it would effectively end theological research and gag Catholic teachers.

Speaking to Catholic groups,

the Pope attacked "law-makers

... who contribute to the creation of legislation which contrasts with the essential rights of the family based on marriage."

This week he welcomed the

fact that the oath was now becoming part of Canon Law and

was to be made permanent.

He said: "The family gets little help from weak policies

which fail to offer adequate support either on an economic or a social level."

The Pope's words suggest that the Catholic church is re-entering the political fray in Italy. Since the demise in the early 1990s of the corrupt Christian Democrat Party, a political body which had been close to the Vatican, the church has seemed to be in some difficulty in deciding where it should position itself.

During general elections in 1995 and 1997, many Catholic organisations and lobby groups advised supporters to cast their votes for left-of-centre groups.

But this week, as the governing coalition prepared to address several thorny issues, such as

state support for private schools, the great majority of

which are Catholic - the high

ops criticised the government's record on "family" policy, inviting Catholics to reconsider their political position.

Those remnants of the

Christian Democrat Party who

have drifted leftwards and into

the current government are

resisting this trend, stressing

their right to vote according to conscience in matters which touch on their religious beliefs.

They say they can do more by pushing for a pro-family policy from inside the government rather than by defecting. Former Christian Democrat on the right greeted the bishops' - and the Pope's - recent pronouncement with glee. Ministers were swift to defend their record.

Livia Turco, the social affairs minister, claimed that "unlike Christian Democrat governments which for 40 years neglected the family," the current administration "has always considered it a top priority."

Anna Finocchiaro, who holds the equal opportunities portfolio, was hardly conciliatory towards the church.

Foreseeing difficult days ahead when legislation on adoption by unmarried couples and homosexual marriage are due for debate, she urged Catholics to "get real. The reality is that families can be hell. They have to realise that."

Lead article, Review, page 3

## BRIEFING

## Carpetbagger seeks ballot ruling



MICHAEL HARDERN (left), the self-styled carpetbagger running for election to the board of Nationwide, has called for the Building Societies Commission to rule against a ballot form sent out to 5 million members which he claims is biased. Mr Hardern said he would not accept a defeat in his bid to become a director because the form allowed voters to mistake a "For" vote for an "Against". However, Nationwide said it had received several hundred complaints from members annoyed that they had to vote on the issue for a second time. Mr Hardern was heavily defeated in his attempt to run for the board last year.

## US firm attacks Kingston float

A TINY US shell company yesterday attacked plans by Kingston Communications, Hull's municipally-owned telecoms company, to float on the stock market.

Landtel Communications, a company set up specifically to buy a stake in Kingston, has offered Hull City Council £245m for 49 per cent of Kingston and 100 per cent of its subsidiaries, but this offer has been rebuffed.

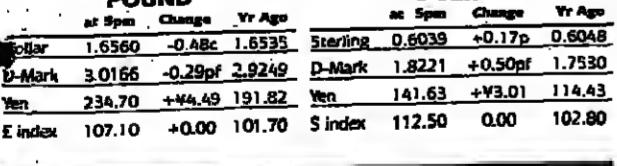
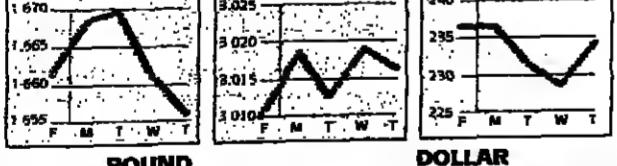
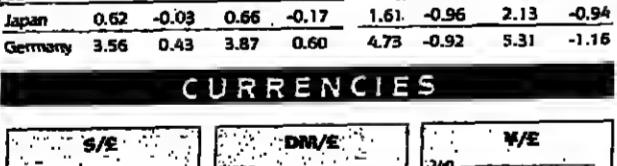
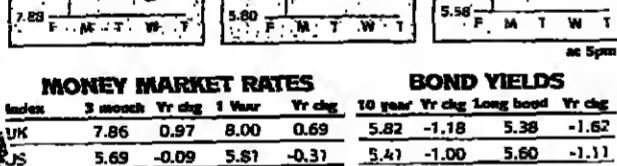
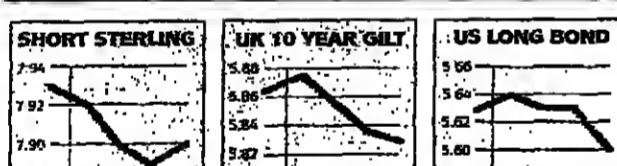
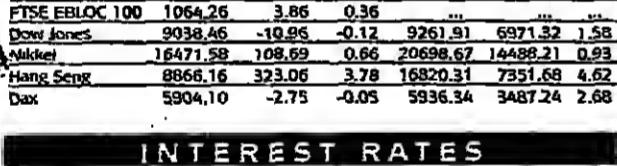
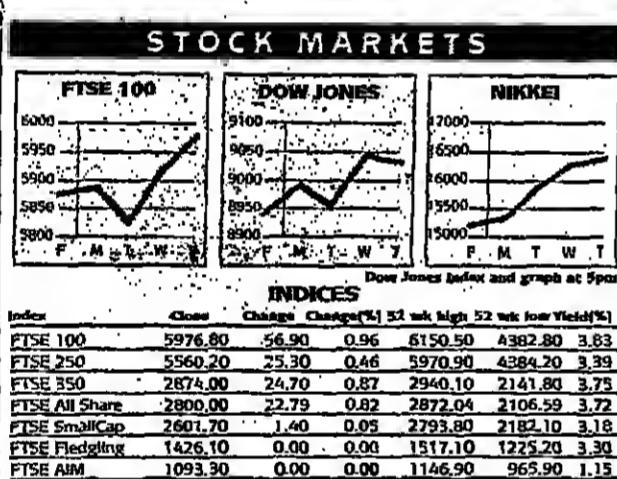
Laurence Zimmerman, Landtel's chairman, said a flotation would inevitably lead to a loss of control for Hull council. Kingston, which is preparing for a £500m flotation later this year, dismissed Landtel's comments, pointing out that the US company has assets of just \$1m (£600,000).

## Sema sale nets Paribas £270m

PARIBAS, the French bank, yesterday pocketed almost £270m when it sold an 8 per cent stake in Sema, the Anglo-French computer services group. Paribas placed the shares, which were sold for 710p, with institutional investors.

Sema said the sale would broaden its institutional shareholding and enhance the liquidity of its shares. The shares rose 5p to 725p.

Investment column, page 21



# June rains put a temporary damper on sales

POOR WEATHER contributed to a slowdown in retail sales growth in June, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said yesterday.

Last month's sales were significantly below retailers' expectations and business levels were well below average for the time of year. Footwear and leather retailers were among the worst hit.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of

BY LEA PATERSON

the CBI's distributive trades survey panel, said: "The slowdown in most retail sectors is almost certainly weather-related and may also reflect last month's interest rate rise and general economic uncertainty."

Some City economists spec-

ulated that the World Cup could also have hit sales, with consumers preferring to watch

football than go shopping.

Sterling fell against the mark shortly after publication of the survey, but quickly regained earlier losses to close at DM3.02, marginally up on the day.

The recent strength of the pound reflects concern about another hike in interest rates, possibly as soon as next week when the Bank of England's rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meets.

Willem Buiter, one of the MPC's nine members, yesterday fanned fears of a rate hike, saying that the Bank of England had to keep interest rates high as long as domestic demand remained strong.

Economists were divided about the likely impact of the CBI survey on the MPC's impending rate decision. Some said the survey pointed to a dampening of consumer de-

mand, while others said the underlying trend was steady.

The net balance of retailers reporting year-on-year increases in sales volumes in June was 19 per cent, down from 25 per cent in May. A third of retailers had been expecting to report year-on-year sales increases in June, and 27 per cent of retailers said they expected sales to increase in July.

A net balance of 14 per cent

of retailers said sales were below average for the time of year, the worst reading of this measure since October 1995.

Richard Iley, of ABN Amro, noted the underlying trend in sales was still quite robust. He commented: "The survey supports our view that consumer demand will slow only modestly this year, helping to ensure a soft landing for the economy."

Mr Iley added that compar-

ing sales in June 1998 with those in June 1997 could overstate the extent of any slowdown, as June 1997 sales were unusually high following payment of "windfalls" from building society demutualisations.

Overall, a MORI poll showed 38 per cent of people felt economic conditions would get worse over the next year, double the number looking for an improvement.

## IN BRIEF

### Tradepoint clear for US dealing

SHARES IN Tradepoint Financial Networks, which provides an alternative equity trading system to the London Stock Exchange, gained nearly 30 per cent to close up 6p at 26.5p on news that the US Securities and Exchange Commission has cleared the system for direct use by US investors. SEC clearance boosted the stock because - for the first time - US institutions will be allowed to deal with the UK exchange directly rather than through intermediaries.

Volumes on the system are expected to rise significantly, especially as US investors are used to dealing with an order-driven trading system.

### Liffe hits record

LIFFE, London's futures and options exchange, traded a record 109 million contracts during the first half of 1998, 8 per cent higher than in the first half of 1997. But Liffe is still losing volume in the German government bond future (Bund). The DTB, the electronic German futures exchange, has won the bulk of Bund trade from Liffe.

### Oil tax warning

HIGHER TAXES on the North Sea oil and gas industry could cripple companies that supply goods and services, putting up to a third out of business and eliminating up to 75 per cent of jobs they provide. This warning, from the Offshore Contractors' Association, is based on the assumption that the oil and gas industry might cut back as much as 50 per cent on purchases from supplier companies. OCA says there is already a noticeable slowdown in exploration and appraisal with drilling rig use down to half average activity.

### US jobless rise

THE UNEMPLOYMENT rate in the US rose to 4.5 per cent in June from 4.3 per cent in May, the Labor Department said. Non-farm payroll employment rose by 205,000. The consensus forecast of Wall Street economists had been for the non-farm payroll to rise by 196,000 and for the unemployment rate to remain unchanged at 4.3 per cent. In May, non-farm payrolls were revised to a gain of 309,000, previously reported as a 296,000 gain.

### Rail acts on bug

RAILTRACK HAS suspended some information technology projects in order to tackle the Year 2000 computer problem. The company is reported to have allocated 60 staff and up to £10m after suspending 44 IT projects in May to focus resources on tackling the millennium bug. The report, in *Computer Weekly*, quoted Railtrack's year 2000 director, Nick Pearce, as saying the resources will tackle embedded systems.

### Export database

THE UK's first government-supported National Exporters Database has been launched on the Internet. The Dialog Corporation will operate the database, which is phase one of a Trade UK project on behalf of the Department of Trade and Industry.

### Midland rates

MIDLAND BANK yesterday put up rates paid to savers by up to 0.6 per cent and raised its variable-rate mortgage rates, but maintained its fixed-rate mortgage offers at unchanged rates. Standard mortgage rates rise to 8.95 per cent on sums under £50,000 and 8.85 per cent on sums up to £100,000.

# Swiss bank fury at boycott threat

A BITTER trade row was threatening to erupt last night between Switzerland and the United States after officials from at least two US states said they were planning to push ahead with a boycott of Swiss banks over the still unresolved issue of returning assets to victims of the Holocaust.

Both New York and California indicated that they would be implementing the boycotts after a meeting in Manhattan on Wednesday of 800 state and local officials from across the US to discuss the Nazi gold affair. The banks most notably in their sights are the Credit Suisse Group and UBS.

In an angry response, the banks warned yesterday that they may withdraw an offer already on the table to pay a blanket \$600m to settle claims against them from Holocaust victims and their heirs. The Swiss government also appealed to Washington to in-

clude: "These kinds of sanctions are counterproductive, unjustified and illegal. They constitute a danger to the good bilateral relations between Switzerland and the United States".

Officials from both sides of the dispute spent Wednesday discussing the issue before the gathering of state officials in New York. Afterwards, California's State Treasurer, Matt McCall, said his state's sanctions would take effect in 45 to 60 days unless a settlement was reached.

As a first step, New York would probably ban the banks from underwriting state government bonds and reject any bids from them for overnight deposits of surplus government money. In the longer term, the state would shed all shares in Swiss companies from city and state pension funds.

The New York City comptroller, Alan Hevesi, yesterday said measures he was planning would involve "in different stages, cutting off both the banks and subsequently other businesses from doing business" in the city.

"It's not just an issue of dormant accounts," he went on. "There are all kinds of other property, real estate and jewelry that was owned by Holocaust survivors and heirs."

The row is embarrassing for Washington, which is making no secret of its disapproval of what the states are doing. "State and local sanctions in this matter are wrong both in principle and practice," Stuart Eizenstat, the Under-Secretary of State, said in a statement to the officials. He said he hoped the parties would resume their talks as soon as possible "in a non-coercive atmosphere".

The US Ambassador to Berne, Madeleine Kunin, was similarly disappointed. In a statement yesterday, she said: "What has been overlooked in this discussion are the concrete steps that Switzerland has taken to search out dormant accounts and to examine its World War Two history."

In a statement, the Swiss Federal Council, the equivalent of the government cabinet, de-

termined to block any such boycotts.

"We are examining measures, and that can go towards our offer to negotiate, and that can also go towards taking legal steps against the states which initiate boycotts," said a spokesman for Credit Suisse.

The banks have also pledged to return all the money in dormant accounts which are now being sought out by an independent panel set up by banks and Jewish organisations, headed by Paul Volcker, the former Federal Reserve head. The World Jewish Congress, however, is seeking payment of \$1.5bn.

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### MURRAY VENTURES PLC

(Incorporated in Scotland under the Companies Act 1985 with registered number SC46779)

Notice is hereby given that the register of members of Murray Ventures PLC will be closed on

3 July 1998  
(at close of business)

By order of the Board

Murray Johnstone Limited,  
Secretary

Registered Office:  
7 West Nile Street,  
Glasgow,  
G1 2PX

3 July 1998



Paul Volcker: Examining accounts Popperfoto

RICHARD BRANSON'S Virgin Atlantic airline is planning to appoint bankers to advise it on raising money for a period of faster expansion over the next two-three years.

It will involve new aircraft, new routes to the Caribbean, the Far East, South Africa and North America and possibly the launch of a domestic airline in the United States.

Virgin, which made around £80 million profits over the past year and is generating a lot of money at present, has been

able to finance expansion internally up to now, but is looking to raise hundreds of millions for its next expansion phase.

It is considering a range of options for this period. The new money could possibly come from a flotation of Virgin Atlantic, which would value the airline at around £1.2 billion, but it is more likely to be raised through a big bond issue on both sides of the Atlantic.

Branson is talking to three

or four banks this summer, but has not yet appointed advisers and a decision on fund-raising is months away.

He has announced three new routes to the Caribbean islands of St Lucia, Antigua and Barbados, which will be launched this autumn, and signalled a new service to Cape Town next spring.

Virgin is also applying for new Far Eastern routes to Shanghai, Beijing and Bombay to add to its existing Asian services to Hong Kong and

Tokyo. It also sees new expansion possibilities across the Atlantic, whether or not the British Airways-American Airlines link-up finally gets the go-ahead from US regulators, and has been talking to companies in America about starting up a new cut-price domestic airline there along the lines of its European venture, the Brussels-based Virgin Express.

Rising fares in the US market remains a possibility, with its profits likely to move towards £100m this year but it seems unlikely before 1999.

### Names offered cash to sell out

BY ANDREW VERTHY

LLOYD'S OF LONDON took another step away from the centuries-old practice of unlimited liability yesterday as Wellington Underwriting, the specialist insurance fund, offered to buy a £175m slug of business from names.

The deal is set to mark a further erosion in the control of names over the market. Two years ago, names underwrote 60 per cent of the market's £10bn capacity. Now their share is less than 40 per cent.

Names with syndicate 2020, which holds £400m of the underwriting capacity at Lloyd's, will be offered cash or shares in a deal worth £28.5m in exchange for selling out to Wellington.

If names agree to the offer Wellington, a listed company, will get a 67 per cent controlling

stake in 2020, which is likely to be the largest syndicate in the market next year.

Ian Agnew, chairman of Wellington, said: "We hope that names who no longer wish to expose themselves to unlimited liability will take this opportunity to continue to participate in Wellington's underwriting through ownership of its shares."

A spokesman for Wellington

said names increasingly accepted that they were better off abandoning unlimited liability and buying into commercial Lloyd's companies as shareholders.

As if to back the case for selling out, many Lloyd's syndicates are predicting losses in the market for this year. World-wide competition in the insurance market has brought premiums down to rock-bottom levels and squeezed syndicates' profit margins.

Some corporate members of

Lloyd's are keen to replace the commission earned from run-

ning syndicates with the profits earned from owning them.

However, the process of buying out names carries heavy costs.

While names will receive a maximum of £38.5m under Wellington's offer, the company has to raise £120m of capital to back insurance policies no longer covered by the personal assets of names.

To finance this, Wellington

needs to raise £49m in a rights issue plus a further £60m in debt facilities.

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The City gave the deal a warm reception, with Metroline shares up 31p, or 11.3 per cent, to 305p. The stock has risen more than 75 per cent since Metroline came to the market last July at 173p.

"We want to be bigger; we

### Metroline buys London rival

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

METROLINE, the London bus company which floated last year, yesterday doubled its size with the acquisition of rival bus operator London Northern for £11.9m from MTL, the Liverpool-based transport group.

The sale of London Northern paves the way for a trade sale of MTL, following the abandonment of its planned flotation in January. MTL's management is understood to be considering a number of offers.

MTL declined to identify the potential bidders, but reports have suggested that a number of big transport groups, including the UK's largest, Stagecoach, and Arriva, First Group and Go-Ahead, have considered offering up to £100m for the company.

the northern part of the capital. The addition of London Northern will almost double Metroline's share of the London bus market, making it the fourth-largest operator in the capital with 13 per cent of the city's routes.

Arriva is the market leader in London with 25 per cent of the market, followed by Go-Ahead and Stagecoach.

London Northern will add 430 buses to Metroline's 480-strong fleet.

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"We want to be bigger; we

### Barclays to buy Daiwa equity unit

BARCLAYS CAPITAL, the investment banking division of Barclays Bank, is to buy the global equity financing unit of Daiwa, the Japanese brokerage, writes Lea Paterson.

Kevin Mirabile, founder of Daiwa's equity financing unit and a leading figure in the field, will transfer to Barclays along with 52 Daiwa employees.

The terms of the deal were not disclosed, but Barclays is understood to have acquired the business for a relatively low price, thought to be less than £10m.

A spokeswoman for Daiwa said the decision to sell the unit was part of its "continuing strategic review". She said: "We believe we would get a better return by selling the unit and investing in other parts of our business."

Thomas L. Kalaris, chief executive of Barclays Capital Americas, said: "This is an excellent strategic fit for Barclays Capital."

Barclays Capital is to be

renamed Barclays Global

Equity.

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Barclays





# Footsie up as investors dial telecoms

INVESTORS DIALED into telecoms again, sending shares of the four leading British players soaring to new highs.

Orange, with encouraging subscriber figures, was largely responsible for the latest charge. Enthusiastic analytical comments helped; so did the ever-present feeling that more corporate activity will soon erupt.

BT's decision to reduce the cost of calling Cellnet and Vodafone mobile phones from BT lines was another factor. The four mobile phone companies will now be charged identical rates.

In often busy trading Cable & Wireless led the way with a 43p jump to 790p; Orange gained 33p to 680p; Vodafone 23p to 819p and BT 20p to 665p.

Vodafone attracted some head forecasts. SG Securities and HSBC suggested a 1,040p target; Lehman Brothers went for 850p and BT Alex Brown aimed for 1,100p over two years.

Securicor, owning 40 per cent of Cellnet with BT accounting for the rest, put on 21p to 511p.

The busy phone lines helped lift

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK  
PAIN

Footsie 40.3 points to 5,960.2. At one time the index was up 76.8. The supporting indices also made headway although the small cap index had to be content with a modest 1.4 advance to 2,601.7. With turnover topping 1 billion shares, the stock market had a decidedly confident appearance.

Growing hopes that the worst of the Asian crisis is over and lower stock sales, suggesting an easing of pressure for higher interest rates, were other favourable influences.

It is surprising that as the flow of profit warnings goes on and

doubts continue to grow about the economy slowing down, Footsie should nudge 6,000, only 145.5 from its peak.

Other blue chips enjoying the fun included the bus and train group Stagecoach, up 46p to 1,324p following an SBC Warburg push, and British Aerospace, 13.5p higher at 486.5p with CSEB saying the shares were around 40 per cent undervalued. A rumoured US order for 30 Airbus Industrie aircraft also helped.

BT, on the BT Alex Brown 440p forecast, remained in demand, hitting a 363p peak with a 7p gain.

Retailers, however, were ruffed by the cautious Confederation of British Industry survey, showing shop sales slowed last month, one of the wettest Junes on record.

Kingfisher fell 6p (after 20p) to 655p and Marks & Spencer 3p to 548p.

Financials, once responsible for powering Footsie, were subdued with Halifax off 14p at 790p and Standard Chartered 19p at 704p.

Acorn Computer held at 135.5p. The 14.3 per cent sold by Italy's Olivetti has gone to Lehman Brothers

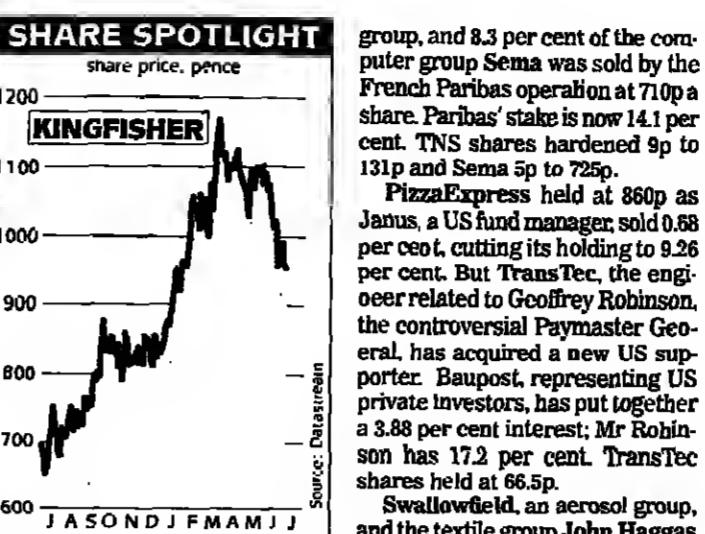
group, and 8.3 per cent of the computer group Sema was sold by the French Paribas operation at 710p a share. Paribas' stake is now 14.1 per cent. TNS shares hardened 9p to 13p and Sema 5p to 725p.

PizzaExpress held at 860p as Janus, a US fund manager, sold 0.68 per cent, cutting its holding to 9.26 per cent. But TransTec, the engineer related to Geoffrey Robinson, the controversial Paymaster General, has acquired a new US supporter, Baupost, representing US private investors, has put together a 3.88 per cent interest; Mr Robinson has 17.2 per cent. TransTec shares held at 66.5p.

Swallowfield, an aerosol group, and the textile group John Haggas contributed the day's profit warnings. Shares of Swallowfield fell 30p to 123.5p and Haggas was cut 19p to 48.5p. Deva, the sausage skin group which devastated its shares with a profit warning on Wednesday, fell a further 36p to 331.5p. In two days the shares have been skinned 168p.

Kenwood Appliances, the kitchen equipment group, hardened 14p to 110p on director buying and FI, the computer group, 10p to 100.5p.

Source: Bloomberg



jumped 117.5p to 1,652.5p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson suggested year-end targets of 1,940p for this year and 2,346p for next.

Banner Homes, in bid talks, finished 17p firmer at 156p. Other house-builders were weak, unsettled by a 7 per cent fall in new housing starts in the three months to May.

Zetters, the bingo and pools group where takeover talks recently ended, rose 7.5p to 132.5p. It revealed on Tuesday it was back round the negotiating table.

Old English Pub Co fell 15.5p to 300.5p after its rights issue flopped with shareholders taking up 46.4 per cent and underwriters left with the rest. The company offered shares at 330p; the market price has fallen from 384.5p last month.

The misfortunes at Regent Inns, which had pulled off a surprise profit warning last week, has rattled the market's confidence in the pub companies, which enjoy a healthy rating. Regent, up 4p to 191.5p, was riding at 388.5p last month.

**SEAO VOLUME: 1.06 billion  
SEAO TRADES: 45.265  
GILTS INDEX: 105.26 +0.19**

**HARD-PRESSED** Tradepoint, the miniature stock market, ponched in a 6p gain to 26.5p as the possibility of Americans using its system increased.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission has cleared Tradepoint for direct access by US traders and it is likely they will be able to start keying in within the next few months. With Americans more comfortable with their British counterparts with order-driven trading Tradepoint hopes its volume will increase significantly. It currently accounts for about 1.3 per cent of stock market turnover; 3 per cent would allow it to break even. It has been a long struggle; the shares topped 180p two years ago.

**DISTRIBUTOR** Ring softened 1.5p to 30.5p. Melton Medas, the vehicle of Nick Puri, continues to hold its stake. It has picked up another 2.98 per cent, taking its interest to 20 per cent. Ring shares once topped 160p; a year ago they were 84.5p.

## Time to stop and think about Sema

### INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

#### HP BULMER: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £183m, share price: 346.5p (+5p)

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£m)	255	247	259	310	298
Pre-tax profits (£m)	3.9	25.0	25.5	29.3	18.9
Earnings per share (p)	-0.9	29.9	29.9	35.2	21.2
Dividends per share (p)	10.8	12.0	13.2	14.5	15.0

Operating margins	1997	1998
Share price pence	346.5	346.5
UK	10	10
Australia	15	15
Belgium	5	5
New Zealand	10	10

Full year results contained few surprises following the company's profits warning in February. Profits before exceptional items fell by 26.4 per cent to £22m against earlier estimates of around £30m due largely to three factors.

The company raised the price of its white cider brands such as White Lightning by 60p a bottle, expecting retailers to follow suit. They didn't; instead cut some of their prices, leaving Bulmer with shrinking sales. Imports of cheap continental lager hit a peak just before Christmas, dragging consumers away from cider brands. And the final factor was weak management controls which failed to monitor market movements accurately.

Yesterday Bulmer was claiming that all those problems are in the past. Prices of white cider have firmed and supermarkets have halted huge price deals on cheap foreign lager.

Strongbow, its key brand, increased volumes by 10 per cent as Bulmer upped its media spend by £2.2m last year and is rising up the rankings of top drinks brands.

Then there is the takeover question. Mike Hughes, the group's new chief executive, admits that he has met Pernod, the French group which is believed to have run its slide over Bulmer, but claims, somewhat unbelievably, that this was just part of his efforts to learn more about the industry. He claims there are no current conversations going on and that there have been no approaches.

**Management**, which owns around 30 per cent of the company, had increased margins and built a solid, cash-generating business. But with just 7 per cent of the London market, Metroline was looking like a dwarf among giants. The purchase of London Northern doubles the company's market share, turnover and number of buses overnight.

For all its retorts about wanting to become a broad-based passenger transport group, Metroline had confined itself to running the business it had when it was privatised in 1994.

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#### Metroline deal makes sense

THE RECONSTRUCTION and Renewal programme at Lloyd's, the insurance market, hit profits

at Leopold Joseph, the UK independent banking group. LJ reported a modest 1.4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits last year, following a drop-off in its Lloyd's business.

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## IN BRIEF

### Merrydown plunges to £4m loss

MERRYDOWN, the cider maker, said it had plunged to a £4m loss last year caused by a 16 per cent fall in sales of its key brand and a dramatic clamp in sales of its Two Dogs alcoholic lemonade. Under its new chief executive, Nigel Freer, the company plans to concentrate on its Merrydown and Shloer brands. The group recorded an operating loss of £400,000. Exceptional costs amounted to £3.1m to cover stock write-downs, redundancies and advisory fees.

### Diageo sells stake

DIAGEO, the drinks business formed from Guinness and Grand Metropolitan, yesterday sold its 49.6 per cent stake in the Irish drinks company Cantrell & Cochrane for an undisclosed sum to Allied Domecq which now owns the complete company. The disposal is part of the undertaking Diageo made to win permission for its merger. Cantrell & Cochrane owns Tulamore Dew whiskey and Ballygowan mineral water and made profits of £12.5m on sales of £12.6m last year. It could be worth up to £12.5m if it was demerged and listed as a separate company, according to industry sources.

### LJ profits hit

THE RECONSTRUCTION and Renewal programme at Lloyd's, the insurance market, hit profits

at Leopold Joseph, the UK independent banking group. LJ reported a modest 1.4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits last year, following a drop-off in its Lloyd's business.

عینا من الامر

## SPORT

## The defenders of the Francophones

AROUND THE beginning of the century, the Corinthians Casuals bluntly refused to have any truck with penalties, let alone the later more satanic invention of penalty shoot-outs. When awarded a penalty, they would return the ball in a gentle manner to the referee.

To take a shot at goal from that distance was deemed unsportsmanlike and tantamount to cheating. And now the French are similarly refusing to touch penalties. But this has nothing to do with a sense of 'le fair play'.

If it should come down to a shoot-out against Italy tonight, the French side are not going to just stand there while the opposition nets five. But, while just a few years ago they would have been taking "un penalty", tonight they could be taking part in "une épreuve de tir au but" (literally, "a test of shots at goal").



ANDY MARTIN  
AT LARGE IN  
FRANCE



In the elegiac post-mortems on the England-Argentina game carried out in the newspapers, from *Le Monde* to *L'Equipe*, "tir au but" has now become the norm. At St Etienne, the bloke I was standing next to me said: "in our own club, we still say 'penalty' and not 'tir au but'."

On the other hand, he wouldn't touch "un coup de pied de coin" with a bargepole, let alone a boot: "That

would be ridiculous - we always say 'un corner'. What are we going to have to say next - 'jeu de pied' or 'jeu de ballon' instead of 'le football'?"

France has been long been carrying out a strong rearguard action against Anglophone domination. There is an apocalyptic school of thought, which maintains that French is on the verge of extinction, swamped by an influx of Hollywoodisms, pop lyrics, and Bill Gates.

There may be those in England - and more especially in the States - who are looking forward to attending the funeral. But reports of its death of this 1,000-year old language are certainly premature.

The Général de Gaulle figure standing guard over the battlements is, of course, the Académie Française, founded by Cardinal Richelieu in the seventeenth century to defend "le bon usage". But in the front line of the resistance, the job of actually blowing up anglo-saxons goes to the "Délegation à la langue française", which is responsible for the "Dictionnaire des termes officiels". This is where you will find "tir au but" and "coup de pied de coin" (or, alternatively, "tir d'angle") under the heading of "termes francophones recommandés" and "corner" and "penalty" under "impropriétés et

terms à éviter". There is even a "Ministerial Commission for the Terminology of Sports".

I went to see my old friend, Bernard Cerquiglini, to check out the state of play. Now the head of INALF (Institut National de la Langue Française), he is utterly dedicated to the cause of the French language. But he is a little like one of those judges who has to ask who the Rolling Stones are, because when I mentioned the word "corner" to him (even with my best possible French accent - "un cor-nair"), he said: "A corner - what is that, exactly?" He did, however, understand "un coup de pied de coin". But he didn't really approve of it: "That is too long! We must find something shorter."

"Corner," I suggested.

"But, 'tir au but'," he said, "that is a different matter that is much snappier - it really hits the target!"

Bernard has his work cut out at the moment. He is busy "feminizing the professions". That is to say that he is not actually giving out jobs to women, but he is at least making sure that, if they get the jobs, they will be known as women rather than men.

Until as recently as a year ago, *Le Monde* was capable of writing a paradoxical sentence like this:

"Madame le ministre est enceinte" (which translates roughly as "He, the Minister, is pregnant"). All senior jobs were masculine.

In the more male arena, President Chirac recently went on record as saying that he would have liked to have been "goal" - the traditional word for goalkeeper.

Prime Minister Jospin replied by pointing out that he himself actually had been a "gardie" - thus scoring doubly by using what is now the

more accepted, updated French term.

Bernard Cerquiglini is broadly in favour of this "francisation". "I am not xenophobic," he said. "But I am plurilingual. I do not want to take, say, judo, and make all that vocabulary French. Similarly with golf. But when it comes to football, which is the most popular of all games, words should be comprehensible."

The point here is that language should not be like a World Cup competition, but more of a Tower of Babel. We should avoid casualties. Linguistically speaking, we don't want England or the USA winning everything: there should be room for everyone to play.

So France is making sure that its own language is not going to be eliminated. But Bernard is more ruthless when it comes to football: "France will lose to Italy. Maybe 2-1."

Cape Town Test: Freshly unearthed from Springboks' treasure house is a white-hot wing primed to torment England

## Terblanche set to establish reign of terror

BY CHRIS HEWETT

TAKEN AT face value, Stefan Terblanche appears to hold British rugby in unusually high regard; not only does South Africa's white-wing discovery expect an intense examination from England in Cape Town tomorrow afternoon, but he openly identifies John Jeffrey, the long-retired Scottish flanker, as his sporting hero. There is, however, a sting in this unlikely tale. Jeffrey was known as the "Great White Shark", a fact that sits rather disconcertingly alongside Terblanche's other passion: Spear fishing.

Spear or no spear, Terblanche oozes danger; four tries on his Test debut against Ireland in Bloemfontein a little over three weeks ago amounted to a fairly decisive statement of intent and there were two more against the hapless Welsh a few hundred miles across the high veld in Pretoria last Saturday. "Only two against the Welsh?" asked one English back yesterday. "He's obviously peaked too soon." Mmm.

When Terblanche turned 23 yesterday, he completed 12 months of the most spectacular rugby progress. He rattled up 13 tries for his province, Boland, in last season's Currie Cup, a performance sufficiently vibrant to earn him a run in this year's Super 12 tournament with the Natal-dominated Coastal Sharks. There was no holding him there either, as 10 tries in 11 matches testified. In short, no defence, neither provincial nor international, has yet worked out a method of keeping him under lock and key.

"It's possible to play well and not score at all, but I prefer it this way," he smiles, serene in the warm glow of green-jerseyed recognition. "I cannot begin to explain why things have happened this way: I work hard, very hard, on my speed and fitness but then, so does everyone else. Perhaps it's because I'm a newcomer. Against the Irish, I felt they were so concerned with marking the guys with all the caps that they forgot about the new boy out there on the right wing."

Terblanche did not always take

pated an early succession. Yet Percy Montgomery, Pieter Rossouw and Terblanche have suddenly emerged from the ashes of last summer's trauma at the hands of the Lions.

To Clive Woodward, the England coach, such players are the very essence of the modern game: the gold, frankincense and myrrh of rugby's treasure house. He cannot hope to manufacture genius on the scale of a Cullen or a Wilson, for both are once in a lifetime talents. But Mallett's piecing together of this new Springbok trio is highly instructive. Crucially, all three possess wide experience of the full-back's role and are therefore equipped with sound defensive, positional and kicking skills as well as raw pace.

Not that Terblanche now regards himself as anything other than a wing - a wing for whom Natal, one of the South Africa's glory provinces, is willing to pay very big bucks indeed. "It looks like I'll be moving to Durban, although I've left the negotiations to others. Having decided to give rugby everything I've got, I don't want to be distracted. The Springbok jersey means so much and if you allow yourself to become deflected, you put yourself in danger of letting your performance levels slip."

"For that reason, I don't even read the newspapers; I depend on my friends to keep me in touch with reality; to tell me what I need to know and push everything else to one side. In fact, I didn't even suspect that I was in the running for the Boks until other people told me that the papers were beginning to mention my name."

"These last few months have been fantastic, but the Springbok way means you have to accept the responsibility that comes with success. Yes, there has been a lot of publicity and my phone hasn't stopped ringing since the Ireland game, but the limelight has no importance for me. Nick was right when he told me that discipline was everything. From now on, my focus is on rugby. Nothing else."

It is no great coincidence that the three members of the Tri-Nations élite are mind-bogglingly strong in the back-three department. New Zealand habitually unleash Cullen, Wilson and either Lomu or Vidiri while Australia can boast Burke, Roff and Roff. When the Bokke's World Cup-winning threesome of Andre Jonker, James Small and Chester Williams began to disintegrate three years ago, few anticipated

Giovanni van Bruchhorst. The 23-year-old midfielder is keen to come to Ibrox in a reported £5m deal but has seen the move held up by his club's attempts to secure a higher price. The Rangers chairman, David Murray, has already agreed personal terms with the player and will now turn to the special Dutch football court to settle the issue.

Meanwhile, Murray is willing to let Marco Negri move to the Spanish side Real Betis once a suitable replacement is found. A £5m fee has been agreed for the Italian striker but Murray has invited other clubs to enter the bidding.

Steve Bruce, the former Manchester United captain, was yesterday confirmed as Sheffield United's new player-manager. Steve Thompson, who steered the Blades to the FA Cup semi-finals and the

2000 FA Cup final, has been appointed as the new manager.

Rangers are preparing to take

Yevanis to court to secure the

release of the Dutch World Cup play-



Stefan Terblanche, the 23-year-old South Africa wing, scored four tries on his Test debut - "It's possible to play well and not score at all, but I prefer it this way"

David Rogers/Allsport

## Evans wins damages claim

THE FORMER Welsh international prop Ricky Evans was celebrating last night after successfully winning his long legal battle for damages against the French lock Olivier Merle.

Evans, 38 last week, will receive an interim payment of more than £5,000 from Merle for injuries which Evans claims ruined his international career.

The former Llanelli loose head will now undergo an examination by a doctor appointed by the French High Court before a further hearing is held to determine the final compensation. Mark Harvey, Evans' solicitor, is confident he will receive the £30,000 damages he had originally claimed after the assault.

"I am absolutely delighted and feel entirely vindicated in bringing this claim against Merle," Evans said. "This man ruined my international career and now I am going to see justice done."

Merle, the former French lock, was seen to head-butt Evans during a Five Nations game in Paris in January 1995 which France won 21-9.

The assault sent him crashing to the ground and left him with severe ankle damage that restricted him to just one more Test for Wales while also cutting short his club career.

At a hearing on June 8 at the French High Court in Paris, the presiding judge called Merle's actions an "act of brutality" and found him entirely responsible for Evans' injuries.

He was ordered to pay Evans interim compensation of 50,000 French francs (£5,225), with a further hearing set to follow to determine how much of the £30,000 damages claimed will be awarded.

After the incident in the Parc des Princes in which he also suffered a fractured nose, Evans battled his way back to fitness to regain his place in the Welsh squad for the 1995 World Cup.

But the hard grounds in South Africa aggravated the metalwork left in his ankle and his career nose-dived.

After initially being advised against pursuing legal action by the Welsh Rugby Union, Evans began proceedings against Merle in September 1996, claiming damages for loss of earnings and pain and suffering caused by the injury.

## Venables moves for Argentinians | Meeting of McDermotts

### FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NIXON

TERRY VENABLES stepped up his recruitment campaign at Crystal Palace yesterday as the First Division club's new manager moved to sign two Argentina Under-21 internationals, Diego Maricic and Pablo Rodriguez, in a £1.5m deal.

The Argentinos Juniors pair were part of the squad who won the recent Toulon tournament and are considered excellent prospects. Maricic is a central midfield playmaker while Rodriguez plays down the left. Both have dual nationality and will not need work permits. Palace had an agent in South America last night tying up the details and the players should fly to London this weekend to complete the moves.

The Manchester United centre-half Gary Pallister will have talks with Bryan Robson next week about a £1.8m transfer to Middlesbrough. Pallister's 10-year spell at Old Trafford is about to end and he is expected to take a share of the transfer fee instead of a testimonial if he moves. Pallister can leave once the United's £10.5m signing, the Dutch international Jaap Stam, emerges from the World Cup free of injury.

Bolton yesterday signed the Danish midfielder Claus Jensen from Lyngby for £1.6m. Jensen, an Under-21 international, is the manager Colin Todd's second overseas signing in 24 hours, following the firm acquisition of the Jamaican World Cup player Ricardo Gardner.

Rangers are preparing to take

Yevanis to court to secure the

release of the Dutch World Cup play-

er Giovanni van Bruchhorst. The 23-year-old midfielder is keen to come to Ibrox in a reported £5m deal but has seen the move held up by his club's attempts to secure a higher price.

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pointed as the new manager.

First Division play-offs following Nigel Spackman's departure, will be Bruce's assistant at Bramall Lane.

Steve Staunton has returned for

a second spell at Liverpool on a free

transfer from Aston Villa. The 29-

year-old Republic of Ireland in-

ternational's contract with Villa has

ended, enabling him to rejoin Liver-

pool under the Bosman ruling.

Mark Pembroke, out of contract

at Sheffield Wednesday, flew to Por-

tugal yesterday to discuss a chance

of a move to Benfica with the Lisbon

club's Scottish coach, Graeme

Souness. Benfica have invited him

to offer a three-year contract worth

£1.5m.

Leeds' Barry will well start the

match after impressing as a sub-

stitute in the otherwise lacklustre

victory at Warrington last week.

Their personal collision could be

a highlight, although the Rugby

League insists it is mere coincidence that it comes immediately after all

clubs being put on notice that there

is to be one of the periodic clamp-

downs on high tackling.

The First Division play-off final

which, depending on who you speak

to, may or may not lead to a Super

League place for the winner, is to be

Huddersfield on 26 September.

# Novotna beats demons with steely display

By GUY HODGSON



JANA NOVOTNA'S reputation as the author of her own downfall might need rewriting. The woman who staged the most spectacular collapse in Centre Court history is through to tomorrow's women's final after defeating the reigning Wimbledon champion, Martina Hingis, and yesterday it was steely determination that caught the eye rather than the flag of surrender.

At the end, as Hingis's return hit the net, the Czech beat to the ground and then looked up to her coach, Hana Mandlikova, raising a hand in triumph. Or maybe she also saw the demons of 1993 leaving with yesterday's 6-4, 6-4 victory and was waving them goodbye. Certainly, if she defeats Nathalie Tauziat in the final tomorrow her stature as the great choker will be banished.

Five years ago she was serving at game point for 5-1 against Steffi Graf in the final's deciding set when her game crumpled. Yesterday she was 3-0 and 40-love down against the best women's player in the world and yet she clawed back for what she described as "one of the biggest wins" of her career. The fact it also avenged a defeat in last year's final and it was against her doubles partner made it all the sweeter.

"Maybe there were tears in my eyes," Novotna, who is in her third final, said. "I was really excited. Beating Martina Hingis in a Wimbledon semi-final is very special. We get on very well and we know each other's game well so it was really emotional. I told her 'you beat me last year and I've got my own back now'."

The outcome was extraordinary given Hingis's spectacular start. The first nine points went to the Swiss girl, who 12 months ago became the youngest champion this century, at 16 years nine months and five days. Novotna was not beaten, she was being thrashed.

"Hingis complained of tiredness,

although that was due partly to the relentless retrieving of her opponent.

"She puts a lot of pressure on you," she said. "She closes up the net. I hit some great shots that would have beaten a lot of other players but she always got it back. You have to win the point again and again and I wasn't patient enough."

With three break points against her in the next game you would have had to search hard to find anyone on Centre Court who thought Novotna had the remotest chance of winning, but somehow she clung on to her service. It was a small trophy but it represented hope that was fortified when she broke Hingis immediately.

Suddenly it was Hingis who was doing the chasing, losing seven of the next eight games. She did not like it either, putting on her Little Miss Tantrum act, throwing her racket in the net twice and bashing a ball towards the sidelines in fits of pique.

Quite what the umpire was waiting for to issue a racket abuse warning was unclear, but you could think of several instances where others have been punished for less.

While Hingis was losing her cool, Novotna – the woman whose temperament is so brittle she ought to have "fragile" printed on her tennis shirts – was remaining icily composed. She stretched Hingis to four break points and five deuces at 3-3 in the second set and the illusion that her chance had gone was shattered when she broke the champion to 30 in her next service game.

The turning point was the second set tie-break in which Zvereva's self-belief dissolved before our eyes. That was lost 7-1 and, gaining impetus from that, Tauziat made the decisive break in the deciding set, going 3-0 up. From there the end was swift.

She was slowly lurking in the match. Zvereva, who defeated Graf and Monica Seles to reach the semi-finals said, "And by the end I she was beating me at the baseline and the net." She went on to blame her forehand and her backhand approach, which left very little which was going right. "I feel so tired," she added. "I need a break in a mental institution." Novotna would understand the feeling.



Jana Novotna celebrates yesterday, after beating the reigning champion, Martina Hingis, in the semi-final. Robert Hallam

## British hero's days of glory

Roger Taylor recalls his big Centre Court moments.  
By Richard Eaton



Taylor coped well with Wimbledon pressure

WHEN ROGER Taylor reached the Wimbledon semi-final 25 years ago the route was easier, though the achievement was arguably greater than Henman's in that it was the third time Taylor had done it.

But the toughest obstacles the British No 1 faced in the boycott-blighted year of 1973 were less formidable than those Henman this week confronted in the persons of two recent winners of Grand Slam titles, Pat Rafter and Petr Korda.

However, the road to the '70 semi was much more rocky. Indeed the success Taylor achieved on the middle Saturday in the last 16 of that year against the defending champion Rod Laver was the best by a British man since the war.

The Australian was a legend and still regarded by some as the all-time greatest. He had gone 31 matches at Wimbledon unbeaten, and yet after Taylor had lost the first set he grew in stature as the match went on, outplaying his opponent.

"Looking back it was incredible because Laver was thought to be invincible. It would have been easy to roll over," said Taylor, who that year also beat two of the game's biggest servers, Clark Graebner and Charlie Pasarell, before falling to another great Australian, Ken Rosewall.

The Yorkshireman was notoriously limpet-like the longer matches lasted, making it all the more galling that rain interrupted his '73 semi-final against Jan Kodes at 5-5 in the

final set. That possibly cost him his chance of victory against the Czech and possibly the Wimbledon title Kodes went on to win.

When they were recalled to finish the match it was 8-10 in the evening, they were already changing into everyday clothes, the crowd had mostly gone home, and the rhythm and mood of the contest was radically different.

Taylor usually handled pressure well, and he believes that Henman's chances of success against Pete Sampras today depend on whether he can do the same to become the first British man since the war to reach the final.

"Tim just has to play the match of his life," said Taylor, who thinks the contest is comparable to his famous meeting with Laver. "He was number one in the world and Wimbledon champion and Sampras is exactly that."

"So Tim has to play his own game as well as he can and sustain it for as long as it takes. But Tim is more experienced, better and stronger player than two years ago."

Taylor often used to approach big matches with a first

## Henman needs right tactics to exploit national fervour

If Britain's hope is to reach the final, he must play more like Sampras than Sampras himself. By John Roberts

BUOVED, we trust, by the national fervour transferred from central France to the Centre Court, Tim Henman will endeavour this afternoon to join an exclusive club of five players who have defeated Pete Sampras at Wimbledon.

Victory would make Henman Britain's first men's singles finalist for 60 years and create a panic to quadruple the size of tennis' most famous arena in time for Sunday's showdown against Goran Ivanisevic or Richard Krajicek.

Krajicek is the only player to have denied Sampras the title since the stylish American's grass-court game matured into one of the finest ever to grace the All England Club. After defeating Sampras in the quarter-finals in 1996, Krajicek went on to become the first Dutch champion.

The 28-year-old from Rotterdam may have made an unforced error with his tongue the other day by rating Sampras only No 10 in the world on his form so far this year. Sampras will probably hear that in mind should they meet in the final.

It has been said that Sampras has lacked motivation of late. Your correspondent is reminded of Damoo Runyon's response to a boxing reporter who told him that Joe Louis slapped: "I hope he never slaps me."

Ivanisevic, twice a bridesmaid with a rolling pin, was the runner-up to Andre Agassi after overcoming Sampras in the 1992 semi-finals. Sampras avenged by defeating the Croat left-hander in the 1994 final and the 1995 semi-finals.

If the champion finds himself overburdened with the pressure the it might offer Henman a better chance than many will expect. Taylor himself believes that the contest is nowhere near cut and dried. "Absolutely he has a chance," Taylor said. "But it couldn't be a tougher match. I will be there to watch. I hope he does well."

It is fair to say that Sampras was vulnerable at Wimbledon who defeated by the Aus-

tralian Todd Woodbridge in 1990, by the South African Christo Van Rensburg in 1991, and by Derrick Rostagno, an American compatriot, in 1991.

Today's Sampras, however, has four Wimbledon titles among a total of 10 Grand Slams, only two short of the record held by the Australian Roy Emerson, and has finished No 1 in the world rankings for the past five years.

Henman, a student of the sport as well as a splendid practitioner, needs no reminding of Sampras's career record.

Moreover, the 23-year-old from Oxford has personal experience of his opponent's expertise at Wimbledon, having lost to him, 6-2, 6-3, 7-6, in the second round in 1995, ending the day gloriously by becoming the first player ever to be disqualified at the All England Club after accidentally striking a ball girl with a ball hit in frustration during a doubles match.

Often described as the British Sampras in terms of

style and temperament, Henman not only admires the 26-year-old American but counts him among his many friends in the locker room. They frequently practice together and have partnered each other in doubles at several tournaments.

The pair practised side by side at the All England Club yesterday. Henman with Matthew Trudgian, a 17-year-old junior from Cornwall, Sampras with Mark Petchey, the Essex player.

Whatever the outcome today, Henman's feat in advancing to the semi-finals, eliminating two current Grand Slam champions, Pat Rafter, the No 6 seed, and Petr Korda, seeded No 3, needs to be placed in perspective.

No one who has followed the sport over the past 30 years would dispute that the depth of talent in the men's game has increased year by year since tennis went open in 1968.

Who Britain last bowed a man in the last four, the gifted

the quarter-finals, Metreveli eliminated a young whippersnapper by the name of Jimmy Connors.

Henman, having learned from the experience of losing in two consecutive quarter-finals, against Todd Martin in 1996 and Michael Stich a year ago, approached the tournament with an impressive blend of confidence and realism. His Davis Cup team-mate, Greg Rusedski, seeded No 4, was the British player fancied to improve upon a quarter-final appearance last year, at least until he was elected to play while carrying an ankle injury. Henman had faith in his ability to advance beyond the last eight, saying: "I feel that I've got a pretty good chance, perhaps as good a chance as most. I definitely believe that one day I could win Wimbledon."

The controversy concerned the ITF's rejection of Niki Pilic's appeal against a nine-month suspension imposed on him by Yugoslavia for failing to play in their Davis Cup match against New Zealand in Zagreb. Even though an emergency committee reduced Pilic's suspension to one month, the ATP carried out its threat of a boycott when Wimbledon refused to allow Pilic to compete.

Taylor and the Romanian Ilie Nastase were later fined £2,000 by the ATP for participating, which was double Taylor's prize for defeating a newcomer, Bjorn Borg, in the quarter-finals. Taylor lost in the semi-finals to the Czech Jan Kodes, who in the final beat Alex Metreveli of the Soviet Union. In

There may have been a touch of prescience in another of his observations. "You'd have to ask Pete, but to win a Slam – and he's done it 10 times – I think it's fair to say you need an element of luck, you need a few things to go your way. So if it doesn't happen this year, then I've still got plenty more opportunities."

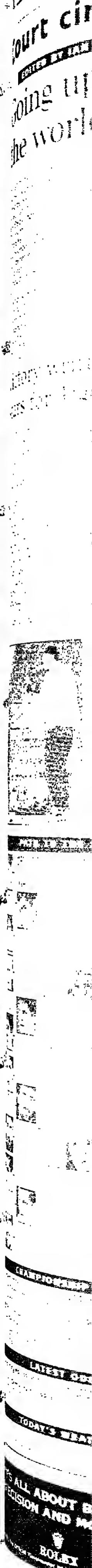
If he is to win today, Henman will have to be more like Sampras than Sampras, serving and returning with consistency, punching away the volleys and overheads, playing deep, accurate groundstrokes, and not allowing his concentration to waver for a second. The champion, remember, has not lost a set at Wimbledon since last year's quarter-finals, when Korda snatched one away from him.

All things are possible. When Henman last played Sampras, the match ended with a tie-break in the third set. If it comes down to another shoot-out, the last thing Henman must do is put the ball in the net.

### THE SAMPRAS DEFEATS AT WIMBLEDON



Pete Sampras is in disarray as he goes out in the 1996 Wimbledon quarter-finals to the eventual champion Richard Krajicek PA



## Court circular

EDITED BY IAN TASKER

## Going up in the world

FORGET PAYING through the nose for tickets for the championships - become a BBC cameraperson and you'll be guaranteed the best seat. For the past 10 years Colin Hazelwood has been on one of the teams who mans the hoist, the large crane-like contraption with a camera mounted on top that brings BBC viewers the panoramic shots of the whole ground.

From his perch around 300 feet above the complex, Hazelwood describes the view as spectacular: "Even though I'm quite experienced in going up, there are still moments of trepidation when the wind blows and particularly when there's lightning in the area because you act like a conductor," he says.

"I wear a safety harness when I'm in the cage, but it doesn't prevent me from falling over the side. If I was to fall it [it] would mean me dangling until they lower it down." Even for a private pilot with an obvious head for heights, the seven minutes it takes to lower the cage would still be petrifying.

All of a sudden, those tickets the tour was offering for the women's final at £1,000 apiece looked like a bit of a bargain.

## Victory written in stars for Tiger Tim

WHAT WITH all the furore over Beckham's blunder, Owen's talent and Rusedski's coaching dilemma, it's hard to tell one end of your newspaper from the other. Now it's Henman's achievements that are continuing this topsy-turvy precedent. Henman is clearly visible wherever the Boy Wonder plays at Wimbledon and naturally a lot of speculation goes on between members of the silly hat brigade.

As founder of the Henmagic fan club, Sarah Vickary is certainly one of Henman's biggest fans. "I think what Tim has done is absolutely tremendous," says the woman who has seen all of his matches during the Championships. "I've been saying for the last 18 months that he could win it this year."

"I'm not superstitious, but I read a book about Chinese horoscopes recently. Tim was born in the Year of the Tiger and it's the Year of the Tiger this year. His horoscope says he's dedicated, focused, that he loves situations where he's staring down the barrel of a gun and that he will make it big this year."

Sarah said she would do anything to get a ticket if Henman makes it to the final. In the meantime, however, her message to her hero is simply "Go do it".

Jane Murlow



Tim Henman fans are hoping Pete Sampras finds the net an insurmountable obstacle in today's semi-final with the British No 2

Robert Hallam

# Tauziat lacking a secret weapon

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

SUZANNE LENGLEN, the last Frenchwoman to win Wimbledon, was occasionally fortified during matches by sugar lumps soaked in brandy thrown to her by Papa, Charles.

If France is to reclaim the title last won in 1925 then it

will need to use cognac tomorrow.

About half a bottle poured down the neck of Jana Novotna should do the trick.

Before the Czech produced the best of the tennis from her career yesterday to defeat Martina Hingis, the Centre Court crowd had to endure Tauziat's less aesthetic 1-6, 7-6, 6-3 victory over Natasha Zvereva. Perhaps that was all that was deserved.

The Centre Court has been a bear pit in the past, but yesterday the audience was small and subdued. The arena had more of the genteel atmosphere of Winnie the Pooh butting picnic scenes for Tigger and Piglet.

The Frenchwoman was actually born in Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, a landlocked chunk in the middle of the dark continent. This was formerly the land of the disgraced Emperor Bokassa, who spent millions on his coronation and was considerably more ruthless with his opponents than Tauziat was with hers yesterday.

Tauziat lost the first game of the match to love, walked to the chair, and proceeded to spill her drink down her front. This was not auspicious. After 21 minutes of largely sympathetic silence following Tauziat's medley of errors, the set had gone, 6-1. Zvereva looked on for the first set yesterday.

"I didn't move well and she played unbelievably," Tauziat said. "I was embarrassed. The thing I was most embarrassed about was not playing [well]. You are in the semi-final of Wimbledon and you want to give your best and I don't think at the beginning of the match I gave my best."

"But suddenly I started to think 'I'm going to miss this chance', and I say, 'Natalie, you have to fight'."

When Zvereva joined on

she was referred to by the Christian name of Natalia, which was now soon changed to the more informal Natasha. There was another transformation in the artist formerly known as Natalia at the end of the first set yesterday.

Tauziat had needed help to get back in the game and some on Centre Court obliged - her opponent, Zvereva, who is not used to playing this many

singles games at a tournament,

started moving as nippily as a trawler; she became more tentative. Tauziat became encouraged.

"I started to move better and I played more aggressively, my ball was longer," she said. "My level went higher and higher during the match."

Tauziat, the No 16 seed, may be an accidental finalist, but she has not surprised herself. "I re-

ally believe I can play well at Wimbledon," she said. "I said, 'OK, so this year you're not injured, you're not tired, so you can go all the way at Wimbledon.' I take the thing very positively. I'm not on the moon already, but almost."

Just the one mission remains. "The first thing is that I have nothing to lose," Tauziat said. "It's going to be a nice present to be there, to be on this

tour she was referred to by the Christian name of Natalia, which was now soon changed to the more informal Natasha. There was another transformation in the artist formerly known as Natalia at the end of the first set yesterday.

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Nathalie Tauziat stretches for a forehand on her way to victory over Natasha Zvereva yesterday

Allsport



### CHAMPIONSHIP STATS

B The number of consecutive Grand Slam semi-finals Martina Hingis has reached  
256 minutes The longest men's final at Wimbledon  
21,000 Petunias in the gardens at Wimbledon  
43 The number of times it has taken France's Nathalie Tauziat to get to a Grand Slam semi-final

### LATEST ODDS

Men's singles, to win: 8/13  
Women's singles, to win tomorrow: 2/7 Novotna; 5/2 tauziat.

### TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly cloudy.  
Maximum temperature 20C (68F).

IT'S ALL ABOUT BALANCE,  
PRECISION AND MOVEMENT.

ROLEX

Naturally, the Official Timekeeper to the Championships, Wimbledon

### HENLEY RESULTS

THAMES CUP: London A vs London B 2-1; Lentini Group 37 vs Cambridge 11-6; Nottingham vs Black Sheep 1-1/2; Molesey vs Thame Traders 1-1/2; Duxford vs Cambridge 1-1/2; Henman (1) vs Henman (2) 1-1/2; Davenport (1) and N Zvereva (Bel) vs L Fabat (Arg) and O Van Poost (Bel) 1-1/2; M Swart (SA) and D Graham (USA) vs 5 Farah (Irl) and I Montano (Arl) 6-2 7-6

WYFOLD CUP: Queens Tower A vs Kingston 1-1/2; Dresdner B (USA) vs Rob Roy 2-1/2; Rob Roy vs Worplesdon 1-1/2; Henman (1) vs Henman (2) 1-1/2; Davenport (1) and N Zvereva (Bel) vs L Fabat (Arg) and O Van Poost (Bel) 1-1/2; M Swart (SA) and D Graham (USA) vs 5 Farah (Irl) and I Montano (Arl) 6-2 7-6

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# Montgomerie's joy after perfect start

## GOLF

AS SOMEONE who is keen on his tennis, Colin Montgomerie has a court at home but does not use it much during the golfing season, which means he uses it hardly at all. "It is quite dangerous using different muscles," Monty said. "So it is detrimental to my game. But my wife uses the court."

Montgomerie sent a message of good luck to Tim Henman, who shares the same management company, for his battle at Wimbledon today with Pete Sampras. Henman's chances against a man who considers the All England's lawn his own amount to little as those of all 155 of Montgomerie's opponents in the Murphy's Irish Open.

Montgomerie Mansions

does not quite include room in the backyard for a golf course, but if there were it would likely be a replica of Druids Glen. Whether it is the Irish air or the setting by the Wicklow mountains, Monty is a man at peace with himself and the world whenever he tees up here - and it shows.

An opening 65, six under par, yesterday left him 26-under for his nine rounds on the course where he has won the title for the last two years. "Even when I bogeyed the first hole I was still in a very relaxed mood," Monty said. "Sometimes you just really like a course. Coming back here after two wins in a row I've nothing to lose."

But that is not the whole story. "I feel very happy right now as things are going well off the course as well as on it," he added. "There's a lot happened at home. The house is nearly

finished, I have three lovely healthy children, the MBE, and winning the Volvo PGA. If I can't be happy there's a problem."

Since he set a new course record of 62 in the final round last year at the Druids Glen course has been toughened up and, Montgomerie apart, there was plenty of evidence to show for it. The Scot's closest challengers could do no better than 68s, three behind, while the half-way cut will be in the plus-figure when it falls today.

Among those who may be embarrassed by it are Nick Faldo at four over par, while Seve Ballesteros had a 78. Of the younger generation, Darren Clarke was three over, Jose Maria Olazabal two over, Ernie Els level par and Lee Westwood one under.

Montgomerie, trying to keep his hands lighter on his putter than usual, suddenly found the putts disappearing and he

finished, I have three lovely healthy children, the MBE, and winning the Volvo PGA. If I can't be happy there's a problem."

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The name of the 18-year-old Spaniard, who is the current British Amateur champion, stood out from the others at three under because he is yet to turn professional and will not do so before playing in the US Masters next April.

A week after finishing third in a Nike Tour event in America, where he shot a 65 in the third round, Garcia responded to dropping three strokes in successive holes after briefly sharing the lead with Montgomerie by birdieing the ninth.



Montgomerie blasts away another tee shot Allsport

"Obviously he has emulated Olazabal's feat and I know better than anyone how good Ollie was at that age," said Montgomerie, who lost the 1984 Amateur final to Olazabal. "Sergio seems to be a semi-pro, but he is a very talented one. We will see a lot of him on the leaderboard."

Scores, Digest, page 25

## MARKET RASEN

## HYPERION

2.10 Scarrats 2.45 Change The Reign 3.20 Teary/N'Alch 3.50 Don't Forget Cards 4.20 Chawnwood Jack 4.50 Non Vintage 5.20 Sparky

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places). Right-hand, sand, undulating circuit. Run-in of one furrow. Course is E of town on A501, Market Rasen Station (Lincon - Grimsby line). IN: ADMISSION: Club 2/6, Tattersalls 2/3 (OAP members of course's Jubilee Club half price); Silver Ring £5 (Under-18s OAPs half price). CAR PARK: Picnic areas £2.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 16-74 (28%), Mrs M Rowley 16-77 (48%), Mrs S Smith 13-67 (49%), P Beaumont 8-39 (20%). BULLDOGS: N Williamson 21-26 (24%), R Johnson 15-20 (24%). COCKLEYS: N Williamson 21-26 (24%), R Garrity 14-10 (32%). FAVOURITES: 105-57 (35%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lochmearan (350). Gyrnacrae (520).

2.10 HOLIDAY TIME MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) (Div 1) £2,400 added 2m 11f 11yds

1 240 ADAMS BAN (77) Mr J. Lewis 5 10 3 ... 2 195 PEGGY PRIDE (76) Mr Bally 10 12 2 ... 3 052 REVERSE CHARGE (44) Mr Harker 10 11 2 ... 4 204-2 MASTER HYDE (74) Mr J. Sprey 7 10 2 ... 5 374-2 DON'T FORGET CARDS (74) Mr Lewis 8 10 2 ... Minimum weight: 102. True handicap weight: Master Hyde 76, Don't Forget Cards 76.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 16-74 (28%), Mrs M Rowley 16-77 (48%), Mrs S Smith 13-67 (49%), P Beaumont 8-39 (20%). BULLDOGS: N Williamson 21-26 (24%), R Johnson 15-20 (24%). COCKLEYS: N Williamson 21-26 (24%), R Garrity 14-10 (32%). FAVOURITES: 105-57 (35%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lochmearan (350). Gyrnacrae (520).

2.10 PAY AND PLAY GOLF NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,000 added 2m 21f 11yds

1 40-31 STYLING DOGE (73) Mr J. Lewis 7 10 2 ... 2 192 CHAMBERLAIN JACK (73) Mr J. Lewis 7 10 2 ... 3 021-2 MR SUNNY (73) Mr J. Lewis 7 10 2 ... 4 003-2 REGAL EAGLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 5 204-2 SIR HARRY ARPS (72) Mr J. Lewis 7 10 2 ... 6 012-2 RAKE HYD (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 7 235-2 SCARROTS (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 8 002-2 SPURFIRE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 9 100-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 10 005-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 11 042-2 ROSE FLYER (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 12 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 13 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 14 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 15 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 16 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 17 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 18 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 19 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 20 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 21 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 22 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 23 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 24 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 25 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 26 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 27 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 28 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 2 ... 29 000-2 RUMBLE (72) Mr Lewis 7 10 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Third Test: Kallis and Kirsten's slow progress against England does little to enhance a spectacle stifled by stricture

# No nuns or bad habits

BY DAVE HADFIELD  
at Old Trafford

LANCASHIRE SOLD 11,000 tickets in advance for the first day of the Old Trafford Test. Hundreds of people must therefore have turned up yesterday morning dressed as carrots and been turned away because the ground was less than half full and lacking in atmosphere.

The Lancashire secretary, Dave Edmundson, did not believe the county's ban on outlandish costumes and carrying in alcohol was responsible for the poor turn-out. He had other theories, like the cold and unsettled summer, the World Cup and that watching England in Tests equals watching a losing team.

Whatever the reasons, it was sober, sombre, cricket with no transvestite streakers or drunken nuns to enliven proceedings. A small colony of silly hats to the right of the Pavilion amounted to the only dash of colour, although you would have felt pretty unlucky if your tickets had put you directly behind them.

The mood was not helped by the funeral pace of the play.

**Weston strikes the right note**

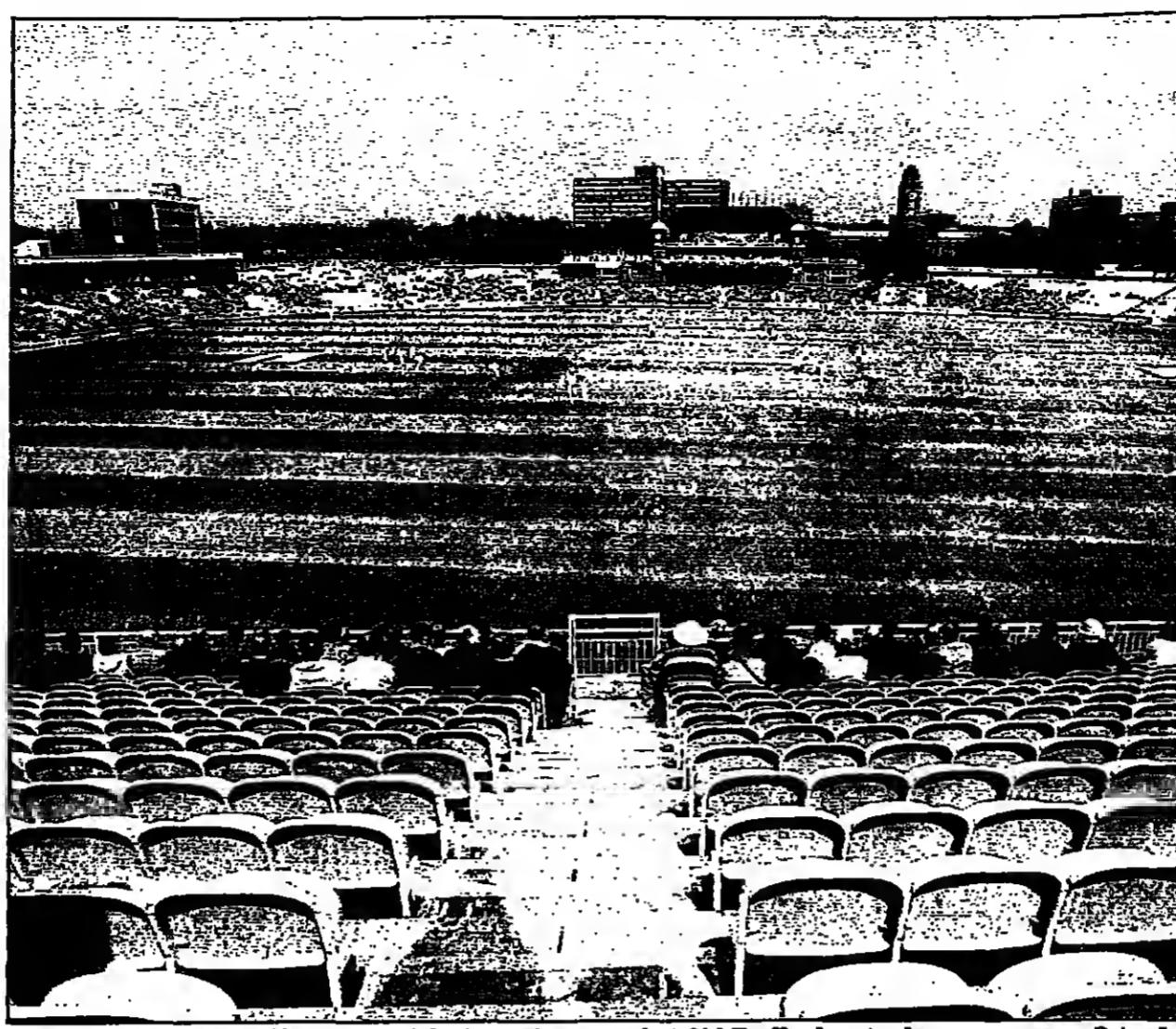
South Africa, ahead in the series, looked to have a draw firmly in mind from the first few overs and it took Gary Kirsten two hours to accumulate 24 runs. It was enough to drive you to drink, if you had brought any.

"It was a step we had to take, because of the unprecedented number of complaints about abusive language and drunkenness last year," said Lancashire's chief executive, Jim Coombs, of the booze ban.

The thousands of cans collected after that Test were predominantly ones that had been brought into the ground, often full of lager at six and seven per cent alcohol. "And if you get six down before lunch, you're already on your way."

The argument over dressing up is one of safety, Coombs said. "If people can't see where they are going, and fall down and break their legs, it's your responsibility." Therefore, the carrots have been rooted out and the nuns have had to break the habit.

That would have made it easier to concentrate on the cricket, if the cricket had been particularly worth concentrat-



Row of empty seats testify to Test cricket's waning appeal at Old Trafford yesterday

# Croft lacks necessary imagination

BY HENRY BLOFIELD

THERE WAS, from England's

point of view, a sad inevitability

about the first day's play from

the moment it was made known

that both spinners would play.

The toss became crucial, for it

was extremely important that

England should bat first and,

therefore, be able to bowl last

when the pitch would be at its

most responsive to spin.

In this situation, Sod's Law

has an unhappy way of raising

its head. The last time England

were similarly placed was in

Georgetown on the recent tour

of the West Indies. Robert Croft

and Phil Tufnell were the

bowlers and it was hoped they

would bring England to victory

in the last innings.

Mike Atherton had won the

toss in the first three Tests

there and maybe it was tempt-

ing providence. He called wrong

at Borda, the West Indies bat-

ted and Chanderpal and Lara

scored 118 and 93 respectively

and made sure of a West Indies

victory. One had a sense of

foreboding yesterday when the

captains went out to toss. Luck

does not often treat those who

it most with kindness.

From the evidence of the

first day, the conditions would

have needed to undergo a dra-

matic change if Croft and Ash-

ley Giles were to have howled

England to victory even if Alec

was too timid for his good.

When batsmen are prepared

to take their time, as Jacques

Kallis and Gary Kirsten were,

the ball thrown up generously

in the air can have a discon-

certing effect. As it was, Giles'

second spell in which he bowled

eight overs for 13 runs was the

best by a spinner all day. Croft

was too timid for his good.

If the pitch is not responsive

to a spin, a finger-spinner must

try and use other avenues. Fin-

ger-spinners from overseas

learn from the start that they

must flight the ball if they are

to succeed in these conditions.

Lance Gibbs, the West Indian

off-spinner who became the

second bowler to take 300 Test

wickets, was a past master at

the art of sleight. Hughie Tay-

field, of South Africa, was

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When batsmen are prepared

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# Hoddle's sad journey to nowhere

ENGLAND CAN be proud of its footballers. They departed the World Cup with honour after losing to a very good side in circumstances of misfortune. Over that memorable two hours in St Etienne the world was reminded precisely why the English are respected. And feared. The great English warriors relish adversity, courage is given, decency inherent. Genius is also a characteristic in this story embodied by Michael Owen.

At the beginning of this tournament I recalled a time when it was possible to fancy England to be serious World Cup contenders. That optimism was founded on respect for the emerging generation of young English players, a number of whom play for Manchester United, a couple for Liverpool (Owen and Fowler) who were playing the game with verve, imagination, admirable ag-



EAMON DUNPHY

gression and awesome self-confidence.

An England team with the Neville brothers, Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt, David Beckham, Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen forming its core, with David Seaman, Tony Adams and Alan Shearer providing experience and leadership, would be formidable in any arena. Then there was Paul Ince and David Batty to do for England in 1998 what Nobby Stiles had done in 1966.

Such a team would have an identity which would be distinctly English. Alas, such a team was not to be. Glenn Hoddle, Man of Destiny, decreed otherwise. The most regrettable aspect of England's World Cup campaign is that Hoddle appears to have survived, still spoiling to the sad end of a journey which led to nowhere because he misread the map. Instead of a rigorous analysis of Hoddle's disingenuousness, his perverse team selections, his absolute failure to identify his team's strengths and proceed accordingly, one reads in Wednesday morning's quality broadsheets about David Beckham's culpability.

"Is Beckham what's wrong with

the country?" the *Daily Telegraph* mused – in colour – on its front page. That such a question should even arise is a grave indictment of The Man of Destiny charged with nurturing England's young footballers.

To be fair to the *Telegraph's* polemicist it was not be, rather Hoddle, who contrived to make David Beckham "The Issue". Faced with the consequences of an error, omitting Beckham from the original England team, Hoddle spun the media a cock-and-bull story which questioned the Manchester United player's fitness for battle when he joined the squad before the tournament. Here the Man of Destiny had two objectives: a rationalisation of his error and characteristic impulse to demonstrate his healing skills. He, The Man of Destiny, had helped "the boy" rediscover the "focus" Alex Ferguson had allowed Beckham to lose.

This contention is risible unless, like Beckham, you have to live with the consequences of it. Instead of being a footballer, which at World Cup finals is challenge enough, Beckham became "An Issue". Still, when England were in trouble, this young man came off the bench to score a magnificent goal, which embellished an outstanding performance, against Colombia. Hoddle slyly stole the credit.

Beckham's petulant behaviour against Argentina will not have surprised anyone familiar with his game. We have seen this trait before. The Man of Destiny must have known that this outstanding player was prone to lapses like the one which caused him to be dismissed on Tuesday night. A better coach might have counselled Beckham against retaliation. Hoddle chose to work on an alleged "lack of focus".

Responsibility for players' behaviour rests with the coach. Therefore the question we might profitably ask is: Is Glenn Hoddle what's wrong with the country? To which even this sceptic is obliged to reply: No. Glenn Hoddle is simply the wrong man to manage England's football affairs.

He was wrong on the Beckham/Anderlton question. Wrong about how best to deploy Michael Owen in France. Had Owen started against Romania, England would not have lost. Thus, they would have played Croatia, won, and be preparing today to face the Germans in Lyons tomorrow. Is that too simple a concept for a traumatised nation to digest?

Probably.

Paper will never refuse ink. There is undoubtedly more profound agonising ahead this weekend. But,

baldly stated, football is a relatively simple game. And so, for those intent on seeking deeper significance, and those on English terraces next season intent on torturing Beckham, a few simple thoughts that might usefully be added to the equation: there are no Men of Destiny; Glenn Hoddle's tactics are un-English and therefore wrong; he was wrong to send Nicky Butt and Phil Neville home; the timing of his decision on Paul Gascoigne was designed to cast the Man of Destiny as a strong man as well; this was not the best prepared English team of all time – Hoddle's most gratuitous claim.

Terry Venables and Bobby Robson took England further with less talent and more dignity; they languish on television, with Kevin Keegan, Hoddle lives to proselytise another day. Maybe that is what is wrong with England.

## Dutch must lay ghosts to rest

After years of disappointment, the Netherlands have 'a complete team in every respect'. By Phil Shaw

FOR SOMEONE with a pathological dread of aeroplanes, Dennis Bergkamp is surprisingly at ease in the Netherlands' camp. Situated on top of a craggy outcrop of rock, high on a hillside overlooking some spectacular views of Monaco and the Côte d'Azur, most of their hotel simply juts out into thin air.

The illusion, to these squeamish eyes, is of a building hovering on a precipice. Dutch prospects of World Cup glory hang similarly in the balance. After a flying start, in which Bergkamp increasingly occupied that rarefied atmosphere exclusive to great players, defeated by Argentina in tomorrow's quarter-final at Marseille would bring them to earth with a sickening bump.

More than that, it would almost certainly represent Bergkamp's swan-song on the global stage. The next tournament is being co-hosted by South Korea and Japan in 2002, a distance to tax the hardest round-the-world rally driver let alone the Dutch FA minions who are chauffeuring the Arsenal striker to his assignments in France. And besides, he points not with undue modesty: "In four years I will be 33. Maybe I won't be in the team by then."

As one of the most cerebral forwards on the planet, and a finisher so proficient that he needs just one goal to become his country's all-time leading scorer, Bergkamp will doubtless be in demand beyond the millennium. But England's Footballer of the Year is determined to prolong the Netherlands' participation in the finals for more than purely personal reasons. At all the four major competitions in which he has been an integral part of the Dutch set-up, they have flattered to deceive.

The sense of disappointment is always more acute than it would be with, say, Belgium or Austria. That is because Bergkamp and his contemporaries are invariably under

pressure to live up to the legacy of the legendary "Orange" side of Cruyff and Neeskens, Van Hanegem and Krol who lost in the final in both 1974 and 1978 – on the last occasion to Argentina.

"That was a great team, they were my role models and everyone 'wanted' to be like them," says Bergkamp. "The ice facade cracking as images of boyhood flicker in his mind. "The second time they reached the final was my first real football memory. I watched it on television at home in Amsterdam and I was very upset afterwards."

Is the past a burden on the current generation? "No," insists Bergkamp. "It would be if we didn't possess the quality to live up to the expectations, but I'm certain we have it."

Johan Cruyff, who will be at the Stade Vélodrome as a media pundit, has criticised Guus Hiddink's team for lacking "fantasy". Bergkamp shrugs his shoulders when the subject is mentioned. "That's his job," he says matter-of-factly, though he admits it would be extremely satisfying "if we could achieve what that great team should have done".

First, they must dispose of Argentina, coached by the man who broke his nine-year-old heart by collecting the trophy 20 years ago, Daniel Passarella. Bergkamp was encouraged by their match on Tuesday against an England side full of Highbury friends and Premiership foes.

"What we learned from that game was that you can beat Argentina. England showed the problems you can cause them with pace and a good mentality. They were stronger than them in lots of areas, but the game was decided in those few moments either side of half-time with the free-kick and the sending-off."

Bergkamp, while still unclear about exactly what David Beckham's crime was, agrees that the punishment was unduly harsh. "But it shows that



Dennis Bergkamp: 'England showed the problems you can cause Argentina with pace and spirit' Allsport

any reaction is fatal," he adds. "The best thing is not to react, even if that's very hard to do sometimes. It happened to me last season."

Although he will not say so explicitly, no doubt for fear of giving Argentina any psychological weapons, you sense he is not unhappy to be facing Passarella's team rather than Glenn Hoddle's. "England quite impressed me and in some ways they were very un-English. There was some excellent passing. It's a shame – just when they were getting stronger – they're gone."

Earlier Hiddink had spoken of how Argentina have confirmed his prediction that they would be "among the favourites, the strongest teams". He remarked in English that they "played to the limits", which Dutch reporters

took to mean that they operated just within the rules. Either way, Bergkamp is approaching the game with characteristic calm.

"The main quality of this Argentinian team is their passing," he says, perhaps aware that Passarella took few prisoners in his prime. "I like Gabriel Batistuta. I've known him for a few years, from my days in Italy, and he's a great goalscorer."

In general, Bergkamp feels that strikers have been "well protected" during France 98. "I haven't seen too many dirty tackles from behind, although a lot of things happen in a game that people don't actually see and even the cameras don't catch."

To often in the past, the Dutch have been undermined by their own, reputedly, racial

divisions rather than any ill-god on their opponents' part. At Euro 96, one of their black players of Surinamese descent, Edgar Davids, was banished from the squad after claiming, in somewhat fruity language, that Hiddink was too heavily influenced by his senior white players.

Some critics have been searching for signs of similar antipathy. They thought they had detected it when the goalkeeper, Edwin van der Sar, lashed out at Winston Bogarde after the defender landed heavily on him during the second-round win over Yugoslavia. Garth Crooks, the former Tottenham striker who has been travelling with Bergkamp and company for the BBC, is a prominent anti-racist but says the incident was viewed with in the camp as totally insignificant.

Bergkamp does not duck the question, as I have been warned he might. "It really is a unified squad," he assures me. "We've been together now for six weeks and no one is complaining. That's good because the really tough games are coming now. Our mentality has to be strong."

At the same stage four years ago in Dallas, he was in the Netherlands side that lost 3-2 to Brazil, an exit which left him "feeling terrible". This time, as part of what Johan Neeskens, who is now Hiddink's assistant, calls "a complete team in every respect", Bergkamp is determined that Orange aspiration will be no mere flight of fancy.

## Fifa denies drug rumours

By RUPERT METCALF

FIFA, WORLD football's ruling body, yesterday confirmed that every drugs test at the World Cup so far has been negative.

Since the competition began, two players from each team have been selected at random for tests after every match – a total of 224. Keith Cooper, Fifa's press officer, said: "Not one has proved positive, I can assure you. Were any result to be positive, we would announce it immediately."

Fifa was forced to deny that

there had been any positive tests after rumours began to circulate, following England's second-round defeat to Argentina, that some players had failed tests.

The Argentinians have been informed that all their tests have been negative, as have the English, Cooper added. The two England players selected for random testing were Alan Shearer and Graeme Le Saux, while the two Argentinians were Ariel Ortega and Matias Almeyda.

Diego Maradona yesterday

claimed that he would use the "Hand of God" again if necessary. Argentina's World Cup winner resigned the controversy over the incident in the 1986 finals in Mexico, when he punched the ball into the net beyond the England goalkeeper Peter Shilton during his side's 2-1 quarter-final win, during a television interview.

"I accept the English treated me like a dishonest person and that they thought I had acted in a dishonest way," Maradona said. "But they can't understand these things. I

would do that again to the English or any other side. I have no regrets and would do the same thing again if I had to. People have to realise that from a small boy I have always lived to score goals in whatever way possible."

Another World Cup winner, England's Sir Bobby Charlton, has called on Fifa to crack down on players diving by setting up a commission to study videos of matches, and punish those who feign injury. "I have never seen so many people dive," he said in Paris yesterday.

## THE GLOBAL GAME

### WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

"The stadium will certainly be hostile, something that does not bother the players too much. The French talk and talk, but we play real football in Italy, and they know it," says winger Francesco Moriero.

His team-mate Fabio Cannavaro is even more explicit: "Up to now, all the French have done is whistle at us. It shows that they are afraid of us and above all that they are jealous of our winning mentality: their players who came to

Italy had to learn it from us." *La Repubblica*, Rome.

"What the Englishman did cannot be described as violent conduct under the rules. It was a small reaction to a foul by Simeone, who, besides, stepped on top of him." "Olé", Buenos Aires, defends David Beckham. Argentinian newspapers have given the errant English mid-fielder a far smoother ride than most papers in this country.

## France.

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Quarter-finals: The Serie A connection will dominate one encounter while the holders take on happy underdogs

# French will play it the Italian way

**FRANCE AGAINST** Italy derby matches go back to Julius Caesar and Asterix the Gaul, but seldom can the old enemies have been such friends. The teams which meet in the first World Cup Quarter Final at the Stade de France this afternoon know each other inside out.

Seven members of the French squad played in Serie A last season in the same teams as 15 members of the Italian squad. Four other French players have appeared in the Italian League. Youri Djorkaeff, the French striker, is best friends with Gianluca Pagliuca, Italy's goalkeeper. Christian Vieri, the joint top goalscorer in France 98, is half French.

Does this give an advantage to the French or the Italians? Probably to neither on the day. But both teams agree that, if the French win it, will be because their skills have been polished, and their will-to-win reinforced, by experience of the toughest national league in the world.

Zinedine Zidane, who returns after a two-match suspension, said: "At Juventus, I learned how to win. Now, I have only one desire. To win for France. We must have a victory. How we win doesn't matter a

to us. That is Italian talk, even if the language he is speaking is French.

Victory for France depends partly on a defence, in which Marcel Desailly (Milan, 1994-98) and Lilian Thuram (Parma, 1996 to date) have been magnificent so far. Going forward, it depends mostly on Zidane (Juventus, 1995 to date).

The French desperately missed his invention and aggression in the exhausting extra time victory in the last-16 game against Paraguay. He was suspended for two games after treading on a Saudi opponent in the second French game, an act

If the host nation are to reach the last four, they will owe a big debt to today's adversaries. By John Lichfield in Paris

as stupid and pointless as David Beckham's, but much nastier. Zidane, incidentally, described Beckham's sending-off as a "crazy decision".

Although they deny it, it is almost certain that the Italians will take special measures to block Zidane. Dino Baggio, Thuram's Parma team-mate, is expected to man-mark him.

The French playmaker says the game will be the most important of his career. It may certainly answer the last remaining question about Zidane's ability. Like Eric Cantona before him, the professional criticism of Zidane is that he disappears in the really important matches. He has been a relatively anonymous figure on the losing side in three European finals (one with Bordeaux, two with Juventus).

Zidane, himself, angrily rejects this criticism (as does the French coach, Aimé Jacquet). "It's quite the opposite. I play better when I'm playing a big game," Zidane said. "I won't disappear in the quarter-final. I'm not shitting myself."

The match is also the biggest in Zidane's 30 years in football. Defeat for the host nation in the quarter-final will be taken by the French press and public as a vindication of their four-year campaign of vilification of the coach.

Some parts of the French press, which dislike his plodding caution, have taken to calling him Mémé Jacquet or "Granny Jacquet". If France win today but lose the semi-final, Zidane could retire to his knitting with honour. A last-four place would be grudgingly accepted as respectable.

In truth both France and Italy look to have the beating of Germany

or Croatia; a win today is an option on a place in the final on 12 July.

With Zidane's return, Jacquet's great problem is what it has always been: who will remember to score the goals? This is not the kind of problem which any team wants to take into a match against Italy, even if the Italians have been less solid defensively than usual. Despite protestations to the contrary, the Azzurri are likely to play a holding game.

The seven-goal French bursts against South Africa and Saudi Arabia in the first two matches were misleading. Against Paraguay, the host nation looked what they have looked for several years now: a great team in search of a striker.

David Trézéguet of Monaco, has had a couple of auditions for the job and failed (even though his header set up Laurent Blanc's golden goal in the second-round match). Thierry Henry, France's leading goalscorer with three from the right wing, is probably out with an ankle injury. At most, he will come on during the second half.

In the last full practice match at the team's forest hideaway at Clairefontaine, Jacquet tried out a new striking formation. Robert Pires on the right, Stéphane Guivarc'h (soon to join Newcastle United) in the centre and Bernard Diomède on the left.

This implied that the coach might be about to drop Djorkaeff, who was taken to task by some of his team-mates for his unfocused game against Paraguay.

Alternatively, "Granny" Jacquet, deep in the forest of Rambouillet, may just have been trying some tricks to throw the Italian wolves off the scent...



France's Zinedine Zidane, back from suspension, admits that today's quarter-final against Italy is the most important match of his career

Time for the real Del Piero to shine

ITALY ARE convinced he can win the World Cup for them, but, after firing blanks in all three matches he has played so far, Alessandro Del Piero is a man with much to prove.

The Juventus striker scored more than 30 goals last season in Serie A and the Champions' League, in which he was the top scorer in the competition. Italy's coach, Cesare Maldini, hailed him six months ago as a likely star of the finals, but the 23-year-old has made three appearances at France 98 since recovering from a thigh injury, once as a substitute and twice from the start, and has yet to break his duck.

Del Piero is convinced he can come good, however, even though, as he readily admits: "It's not been Del Piero's World Cup, but let's hope it's Italy's."

Part of the problem could be that the 23-year-old often takes a more difficult route, when an easier one is available. But, defending his game, he said: "They way I play is all about taking risks, and I'm happy to take them - sometimes they go well and I score a fantastic goal, sometimes they don't and I make a complete fool of myself. But that's the way I am." Sadly for Italy, Del Piero has been closer to the latter rather than the former whenever he has pulled on a national shirt - except for one good performance which yielded two goals against Brazil in last year's *Tournoi de France*.

Today sees Italy's biggest obstacle so far on their road to the final: the hosts, France, in the quarter-finals at the Stade de France, a stadium that is bound to be hostile to the Italians. "We are not going to be influenced by the crowd," Del Piero said. "France have a great team but we'll be concentrating on the players and not the people who are behind them."

Also, in a tournament which has already seen the drama of sudden-death victory, Del Piero claimed: "I'm dreaming of scoring a golden goal." Today, he might get the chance but, before then, he will have had every opportunity on the world stage to silence his critics, and to finally prove that he is not a prematurely spent force.

## Johansson enjoys life in the shade

The canny Swede in charge of Danish fortunes has exceeded all expectations. By Andrew Warshaw

IF DENMARK manage to reach the semi-finals of the World Cup at the expense of the defending champions, Brazil, tonight, don't expect Bo Johansson to take any of the credit.

The Danish coach, who is in fact Swedish, is modestly personified, a man who refuses, no matter how many times you ask him, to admit that his is in any way responsible for his team's surprise appearance in the last eight at France 98.

Take last Sunday, for example. An hour after Denmark had torn Nigeria apart with the type of display that brought them the European Championship title six years ago, Johansson stood on the podium in the interview room at the Stade de France in St Denis, uncomfortably rebuffing all attempts to get him to reveal his magic.

"Look, I can't explain why we did so well tonight," he said with an awkward, almost embarrassed smile. "We are not the best team in the world but we know how to fight. No one can ever say why footballers suddenly find a way of playing at a given time. But I am very pleased that tonight's performance was a bit like the famous Denmark of old."

Asked, inevitably, whether his side could beat Brazil with a similar performance in Nantes, Johansson, virtually unknown outside Scandinavia, puffed out his large cheeks, sighed and shuffled impatiently. "I wouldn't bet on being able to play like this again," he said. "But of course we will try to beat them. We have to."

It was his spell with the last of these that attracted the interest of the Danish Football Association. In his first season at Silkeborg, Johansson won the championship. He went to Finland, but the Danish FA had already earmarked him to take over from Moller Nielsen. They believed he was the man, after a miserable

Euro 96 campaign when Denmark looked tired, laboured and were eliminated in the first round, who would give the country back its pride.

They were right. Denmark finished top of their qualifying group for France 98, ahead of Croatia. A 3-0 humiliation by Bosnia in a politically sensitive game was their only blip.

"He always thinks in a positive way," said Thomas Helweg, the Danish midfielder who was outstanding against Nigeria. "He knows there are some problems within the team but, unlike other coaches, he doesn't talk about them."

Home for Johansson is the little Danish port of Dragør, a ferry ride from his Swedish homeland. "For him, small is beautiful," said Fritz Christiansen, the sports editor of the Danish daily newspaper *Jyllands-Posten*. "He has a small house and small car. He's also incredibly polite. It's really difficult to find any skeletons in his cupboard. If you ask him to comment on bad performances, he won't do it."

Everyone in Denmark was pleasantly surprised by the way Denmark changed their game against Nigeria. "We'd been using the long ball in previous matches but the short-passing game was a delight for us," Christiansen said.



Johansson: Gentle giant

"As an individual display, it was better than anything the country produced when they won the European title in 1992."

No one is suggesting that Denmark will end up emulating their surprise 1992 European Championship triumph, or that the current side is nearly as good as the 1986 vintage that oozed class and style at the Mexico World Cup. But the victory over Nigeria won Johansson's team plenty of new admirers.

"For a country our size to be among the eight best in the world is an enormous achievement," said Peter Schmeichel, who, believe it or not, is playing in his first World Cup. "We were very proud to reach the second stage. We thought that even to be among the best 16 was a massive feat. But to go through in the way we did makes us even prouder."

Another stalwart, the 34-year-old Michael Laudrup, said: "I always said I would love to bow out of the sport by playing a team like Brazil. But now I'd like to go one better. We like being underdogs. We have never enjoyed being favourites. All the pressure will be on Brazil."

## Pele not impressed by Brazilians

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

BRAZIL'S GREATEST player is not convinced that his country can retain their title, even if they beat Denmark today.

"We have qualified for the quarter-final, but we can play a lot better," Pele said. "Frankly, I don't think this side is in good physical condition. Of course we

have the chance to win the Cup because we have individual players who can decide any game. But as a team we haven't really played yet, and we have to improve."

Pele said Denmark, despite their unimpressive first round, would be tougher than either Norway or Scotland. "They have got better defenders plus,

of course, there are the Laudrup brothers. It will be an extremely tough game for us."

Pele, who is representing the World Cup sponsors, Mastercard, at France 98, said the

Brazilian coach, Mario Zagallo, needed to play Denilson, the world's most expensive player, from the start instead of as a late substitute. "He should play

up front with Ronaldo. We have been taking too long getting from defence to attack. We need to build up more quickly, and Denilson is superb at counter-attacking."

Pele paid a special tribute to England's Michael Owen. "He is the great player of the tournament. Owen has done better than Ronaldo here so far."

*France*

*It's bound to end in style*

*Nastro Azzurro would like to wish both teams good fortune and a stylish game. But, being Italy's number one beer, you can imagine the welcome will be getting into their drinks at the final whistle. After all, you have to look after Nastro Una.*

*Nastro Azzurro. Italy's Number One Beer.*

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## THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO FRANCE 98

## TODAY'S MATCHES

## Italy v France

QUARTER-FINAL: STADE DE FRANCE, ST DENIS. KICK-OFF: 15.30 BST

CANNAVARO		MALDINI		PIRES		THURAM	
D. Baggio				PETTI	BLANC		
Del Piero				Djorkaeff		Barthez	
Bergomi				Trezeguet			
Pagliuca							
Pessotto							
Di Biagio							
Vieri							
Costacurta							
Di Livio							
Probable Teams							

WEATHER: Cloudy, chance of rain.  
Temperature: 21°C

## ITALY

1 Francesco Toldo .....Florence  
2 Giuseppe Bergomi .....Internazionale  
3 Paolo Maldini .....Milan  
4 Fabio Cannavaro .....Parma  
5 Alessandro Costacurta .....Milan  
6 Alessandro Nesta .....Lazio  
7 Gianluca Pessotto .....Juventus  
8 Moreno Torricelli .....Juventus  
9 Domenico Albertini .....Milan  
10 Alessandro Del Piero .....Juventus  
11 Dino Baggio .....Parma  
12 Gianluca Pagliuca .....Internazionale  
13 Alessandro Coli .....Florentina  
14 Luigi Di Biagio .....Roma  
15 Angelo Di Livio .....Juventus  
16 Roberto Di Matteo .....Chelsea  
17 Francesco Moriero Internazionale  
18 Roberto Baggio .....Bologna  
19 Filippo Inzaghi .....Juventus  
20 Enrico Chiesa .....Parma  
21 Christian Vieri .....Atletico Madrid  
22 Gianluigi Buffon .....Parma  
Coach: Cesare Maldini

Denmark v Brazil							
QUARTER-FINAL: STADE DE LA BEAUVIURE, NANTES. KICK-OFF: 20.00							
HEINTZ			LEONARDO		CAFU		
MICHAEL NIELSEN			JUNIOR BAJANO				
ROGUE			RIVALDO	DUNGA	TAFFAREL		
SCHMEICHEL							
HEJSGAARD							
MOLLER							
RIEPER							
JORGENSEN							
COLDING							
PROBABLE TEAMS							

WEATHER: Chance of a thunderstorm.  
Temperature: 21°C

## DENMARK

1 Peter Schmeichel .....Manchester Utd  
2 Michael Schjønberg .....Kaiserslautern  
3 Marc Rieper .....Celtic  
4 Jes Hogh .....Fenerbahce  
5 Jan Helset .....Bayer Leverkusen  
6 Thomas Helveg .....Udinese  
7 Allan Nielsen .....Tottenham Hotspur  
8 Per Frandsen .....Bolton Wanderers  
9 Miklos Molnar .....Seville  
10 Michael Laudrup .....Ajax  
11 Brian Laudrup .....Rangers  
12 Soren Colding .....Brondby  
13 Jacob Laursen .....Derby County  
14 Morten Wieghorst .....Celtic  
15 Sigi Totteng .....MSV Duisburg  
16 Mogens Krogh .....FC Copenhagen  
17 Bjarne Goldbaek .....FC Copenhagen  
18 Peter Moller .....PSV Eindhoven  
19 Ebbe Sand .....Brondby  
20 Rene Henriksen .....AB Bagværd  
21 Martin Jorgensen .....Udinese  
22 Peter Kjaer .....Silkeborg  
Coach: Bo Johansson

## FIVE GOALS

Christian Vieri (It)

Gabriel Batistuta (Arg)

## FOUR GOALS

Marco Salas (Chile)

Luis Hernandez (Mex)

## THREE GOALS

Marco Henry (Fr)

Cesar Sampayo (Bra)

Domenico Klemm (Ger)

Oliver Bierhoff (Ger)

Giovanni Sotero (Col)

## TWO GOALS

Mike Shearer (Eng)

Michael Owen (Eng)

Domenico Bini (It)

Salvatore Bocchetti (It)

Roberto Baggio (It)

Shaun Bartlett (SA)

Pernando Hierro (Sp)

Francesco Veronesi (Sp)

Kiko (Sp)

Marc Minotto (It)

Philip Cocu (Neth)

## TEAM NEWS

DENMARK: No injury worries or suspensions and Marc Rieper is likely to play again despite a long-standing back problem.

BRAZIL: Coach Mario Zagallo is almost certain to start with an unchanged line-up from the side that beat Chile. With Bebeto starting and Denilson on the bench.

Previous meetings: 19 Jan 1989 (Copenhagen, friendly): Denmark 4 Brazil 0, 27 Aug 1973 (Paris, Germany, Olympic): Brazil 2 Denmark 3, 10 May 1990 (Copenhagen, friendly): Brazil 4 Denmark 3.

GOALSCORERS

## FIVE GOALS

Ronaldinho (Bra)

Dennis Bergkamp (Neth)

Thomas Heitinga (Neth)

Michael Owen (Eng)

Mike Shearer (Eng)

Domenico Klemm (Ger)

Oliver Bierhoff (Ger)

Giovanni Sotero (Col)

Marco Henry (Fr)

Cesar Sampayo (Bra)

Domenico Bini (It)

Salvatore Bocchetti (It)

Roberto Baggio (It)

Shaun Bartlett (SA)

Pernando Hierro (Sp)

Francesco Veronesi (Sp)

Kiko (Sp)

Marc Minotto (It)

Philip Cocu (Neth)

## FOUR GOALS

Mike Shearer (Eng)

Michael Owen (Eng)

Domenico Bini (It)

Salvatore Bocchetti (It)

Roberto Baggio (It)

Shaun Bartlett (SA)

Pernando Hierro (Sp)

Francesco Veronesi (Sp)

Kiko (Sp)

Marc Minotto (It)

## THREE GOALS

Mike Shearer (Eng)

Michael Owen (Eng)

Domenico Bini (It)

Salvatore Bocchetti (It)

Roberto Baggio (It)

Shaun Bartlett (SA)

Pernando Hierro (Sp)

Francesco Veronesi (Sp)

Kiko (Sp)

Marc Minotto (It)

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Mike Shearer (Eng)

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Salvatore Bocchetti (It)

Roberto Baggio (It)

Shaun Bartlett (SA)

Pernando Hierro (Sp)

Francesco Veronesi (Sp)

Kiko (Sp)

Marc Minotto (It)

## ONE GOAL

Mike Shearer (Eng)

Michael Owen (Eng)

Domenico Bini (It)

Salvatore Bocchetti (It)

Roberto Baggio (It)

Shaun Bartlett (SA)

Pernando Hierro (Sp)

Francesco Veronesi (Sp)

Kiko (Sp)

Marc Minotto (It)

## N/A

Mike Shearer (Eng)

Michael Owen (Eng)

Domenico Bini (It)

Salvatore Bocchetti (It)

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Pernando Hierro (Sp)

Francesco Veronesi (Sp)

Kiko (Sp)

Marc Minotto (It)

## N/A



# SPORT

FRANCE RELY ON ZIDANE EFFECT P30 • HOW HENMAN CAN BEAT SAMPRAS P24



Third Test: Stewart's men wriggle in South African stranglehold as second-wicket pair enter the record books

## England trapped in grip of Kallis

By DEREK PRINGLE  
at Old Trafford

South Africa 237-1 v England

AFTER THE mass anguish and analysis that has accompanied the England football team's departure from France 98, there is nothing quite like a sluggish day's Test cricket to bring a grieving nation to its senses. England have been neither heroic or unlucky here, but then neither have South Africa, who finished the day 237 for 1. The stand between Jacques Kallis, unbeaten on 117, and Gary Kirsten not out on 98, so far equaling South Africa's record, for the second wicket.

It was just under 60 years ago in

Durban, that these two countries played for 10 days without getting a result, the so-called "Timeless Test." If England's success rate at taking wickets yesterday was anything to go by, they would not have bowled out South Africa once in that time, let alone twice, and their inability to prise more than one South African batsman from the crease was the most worrying aspect of an uneventful day.

England did not exactly howl

badly, and it was more an average performance by an uninspired bowling attack than a shocker. In fact, Kallis and Kirsten did not dominate, but neither did they look threatened.

Both simply played the line of the ball

and 99 times out of 100, it found the

solid part of the bat.

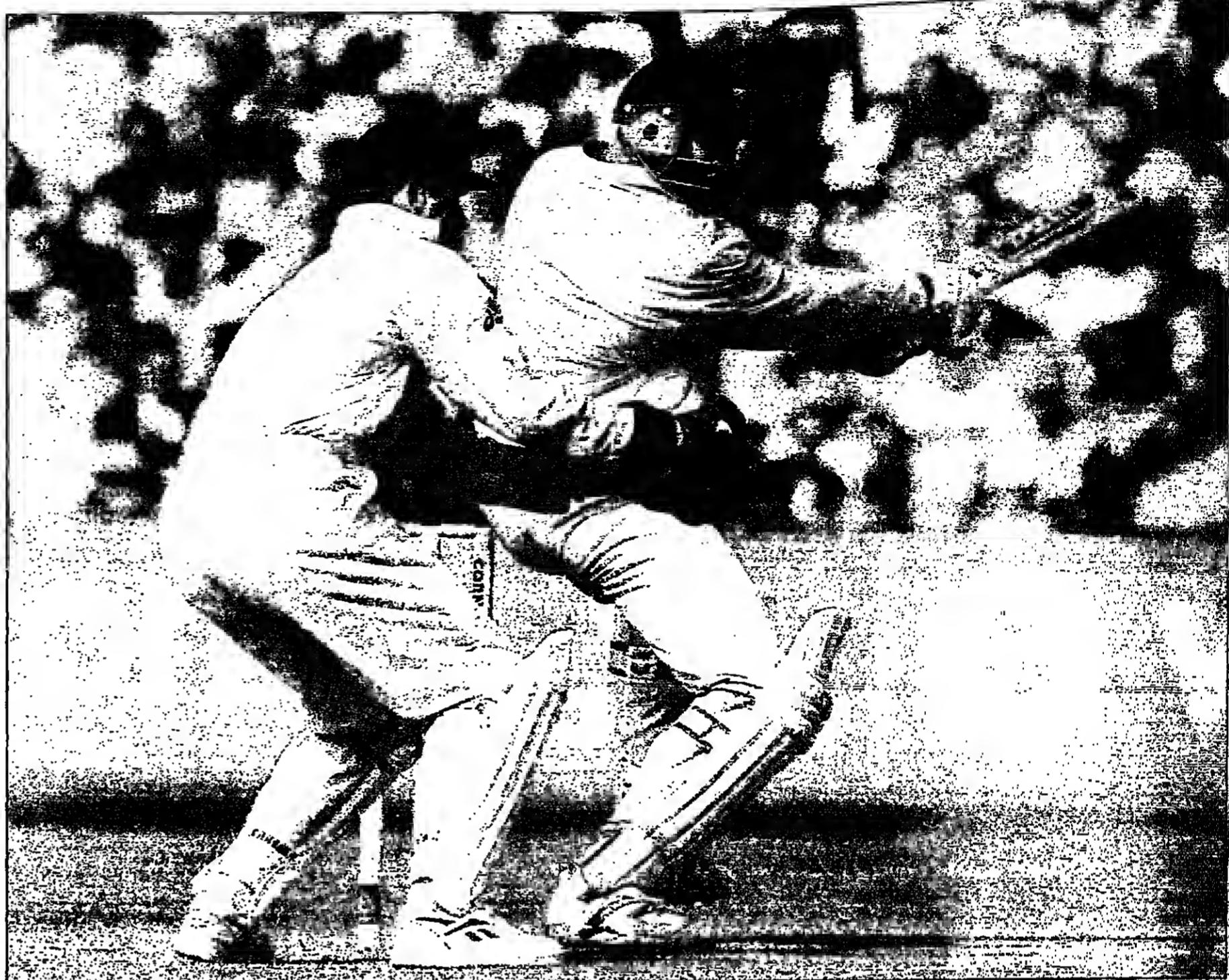
In some ways this was Test cricket as it used to be played, when light bats were the norm rather than the exception. Indeed, before people get carried away with more doom and gloom about the summer game, it must be added that Manchester crowds are among the most fickle in

the land.

First days here, unless against Australia and the West Indies, are rarely sold out. Thirty quid, the cost of a mid-priced ticket, can buy an entire family a day's entertainment.

England brought to the game, after leaving Ben Hollioake to contemplate a wasted journey up north, was another spinner, and the 25-year-old Ashley Giles was duly awarded his first cap. Unless he can find a bit more trickery however, his first wicket may be take a while longer.

Faced with a bare and baked surface it was the correct decision, though having lost the toss, England,



Jacques Kallis cuts Mark Ramprakash to the boundary as he moves towards his century for South Africa at Old Trafford yesterday

Peter Jay

no doubt given a small lift by Shaun Pollock's late withdrawal with a thigh strain, will have to bat last on this. Facing Paul Adams after four days of wear and tear will test to the hilt both technique and temperament, neither of them particularly strong suits among England's middle-order.

The benign conditions, more like

the Test pitches of old, found Eng-

land's bowlers wanting. The return

of Darren Gough, unfairly lauded as

England's saviour after a three-

week absence, was muted. But if the

bustle and pace were there, the con-

fidence brought by rhythm was lack-

ing, despite the early removal of

Gerhardus Liebenberg, who re-

turned to open in place of Adam

Bachar, who has not yet recovered

from the shoulder injury he sus-

tained during the last Test.

After the hush, seamer-friendly

pastures of Lord's, where England's

bowlers were also found wanting.

Old Trafford left them with nowhere

to hide. It was quite simply bowling,

as Shakespeare might have pointed

out, sans swing, sans seam, sans

spin, sans everything, shortcom-

ings that usually hit home when Eng-

land are abroad and not at home.

The home side's propensity to sit

back and wait does not work against

South Africa, whose batsmen rarely lean towards West Indian impetuosity. Once they get their noses ahead in a series, they need to be forcibly removed by imaginative

bowling and captaincy, not smoked out. On a hot sunny day, Stewart and his bowlers could manage neither.

To compound matters, England's

fielding, a crucial component of

South Africa's overall threat, was

moderate. The 50-50 balls Jonty

Rhodes and Co tend to mop up with

their ring of steel. England either

partnered for two or missed alto-

gether.

Only Nasser Hussain, instilled at

cover for the faster bowlers looked

suitably predatory. Later when he

moved to slip, he missed two

chances, the first of them offered by

Kirsten as he sliced at Giles.

On 87, he was missed again, this

time by Giles of his own bowling, the

left-arm spinner only able to parry

Kirsten's powerful drive. Otherwise,

the opener was unfappable, grind-

ing away like a cow chewing dry

grass, a seventh Test century just a

shot away this morning.

Kallis too enjoyed a life, a low edge

off Robert Croft evading Hussain at

slip when he was on 77. That hiccup

apart, Kallis looked every bit the

class act Middlesex professed to

be last season. With no sideways

movement to compromise his occa-

sionally lazy left, Kallis' def-

hands took over.

High and stiff in defence, the

wrists are quick to break when

power is applied, particularly in

strokes through mid-wicket. The

strength Dominic Cork seemed par-

ticularly keen to test. Unless Englan

can get him nibbling just outside of

stump, he could double his career

score. If he does, England will have

little option than to postpone the

ambition and play for the draw.

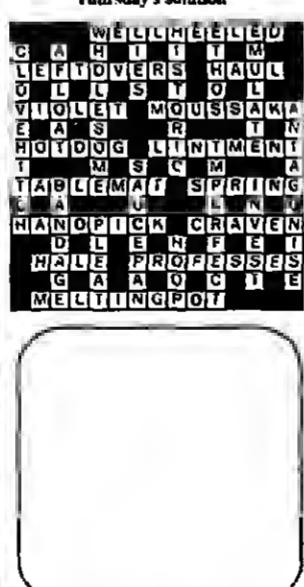
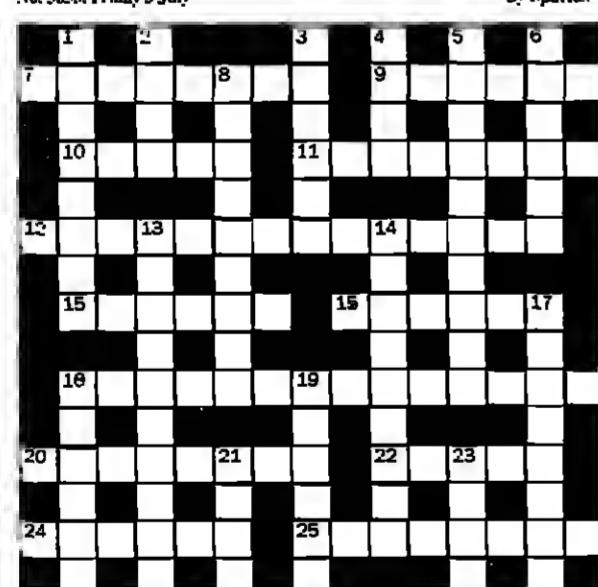
Henry Blofeld, page 2

### THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3653, Friday 3 July

By Spurts

Thursday's solution



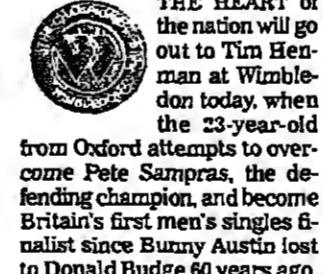
ACROSS  
7 A pupil painting out of doors (6)  
9 Youngster who's out of form (6)  
10 Small size of type making you p-pear? (5)  
11 Fairly objectively with female? (6)  
12 Property of some distinction (4)  
15 Lying i.e. not adopting an upright position? (6)  
16 Oriental coming westwards encounters respect (6)  
18 Relatives you'd greet with arms outstretched? (6)  
20 Art of literary expression in OT richer; somehow (6)

22 Fellow embracing Master? This fellow is Master (6)  
24 Train from Rugby? (6)  
25 Moving forward, forbidding woman to follow prince (8)  
DOWN  
1 Careless, so DPhil's failed (6)  
2 Song featured in Campani advert (4)  
3 Restricting theologian's unemployment benefits, something quite easy (6)  
4 Way eastern women will produce hot dish (4)  
5 Current falters erraticaly in Moscow store (4,6)  
6 New book, see, you'll get in London area wholesale (2,4)

8 Anthology incorporating Spanish article, in part (6)  
13 Set piece for decimating, boisterous, certain to captivate uncle in Ibiza (10)  
14 Change of topic as there indicated? (4, 5)  
17 Stage in journey where Roman soldier's needing time to cross river (4-4)  
18 Illicit to reform professional code of conduct (6)  
19 Peace process disrupted by second leak (6)  
21 Game the French dominate? (4)  
23 Upwardly mobile sector of mercantile area (4)

## Nerveless Novotna stalls swift Hingis

By JOHN ROBERTS



THE HEART of the nation will go out to Tim Henman at Wimbledon today, when the 23-year-old

from Oxford attempts to overcome

Pete Sampras, the defending champion, and become

Britain's first men's singles

finalist since Bunny Austin lost to Donald Budge 60 years ago.

Tomorrow, Jana Novotna will be the sentimental favourite on Centre Court when she contests the women's singles final against Nathalie Tauziat, having caused one of the biggest upsets of the tournament yesterday by defeating Martina Hingis, the 17-year-old defending champion.

Novotna, who lost to Hingis in the final last year, is best remembered for her tears on the Duchess of Kent's shoulder after failing to secure a winning position against Steffi Graf in 1997. "Let's just hope what the Duchess of Kent said last year is right," an optimistic Novotna said last night. "She said, 'Third time lucky', so here I am."

Although the 29-year-old Czech lost the first three games against Hingis, the world No 1, yesterday, she had faith that her classical serve-volley style would prevail against her doubles partner on this occasion. She was proved right, recovering to win 6-4, 6-4, betraying not a trace of nerves when it came to converting the match point.

Hingis, whose only defeats in

the four Grand Slam championships has been at the French Open since winning the Australian title, aged 16, in January 1997, appeared to have concentrated her mind after dropping a set to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the quarter-finals. But once Novotna settled into her stride yesterday, the young Swiss was unable to hold on to her title.

Novotna fell to the ground and punched the grass in triumph at the finish as the crowd rose to give her a rousing reception. "She deserves it," Hingis said. "She's been here twice in the final already, and I think she has a great chance this time."

Tauziat, seeded No 16, will be

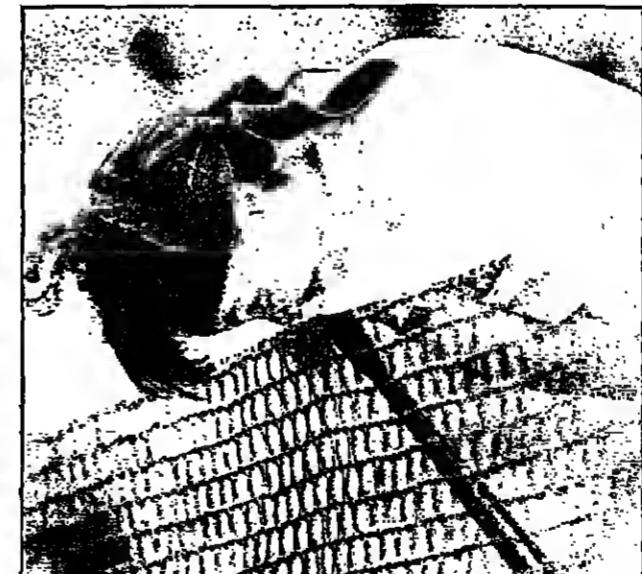
competing in her first Grand Slam final, and on the biggest

stage of all. The Frenchwoman staged a remarkable recovery from Belarus, 1-6, 7-6, 6-3. The unseeded Tauziat eliminated Steffi Graf, the seven-times champion, and Monica Seles, who had defeated Hingis in the French Open semi-finals, en route to the last four.

Tauziat is the first Frenchwoman to reach a Wimbledon singles final since Suzanne Lenglen in 1925. "I have nothing to lose," Tauziat said. "For me, it's going to be a nice present to be there, to play on this Centre Court. If I play my best tennis, I think I can win."

Wimbledon reports and

results, pages 24 & 25



Hingis shows her frustration yesterday Robert Hallam

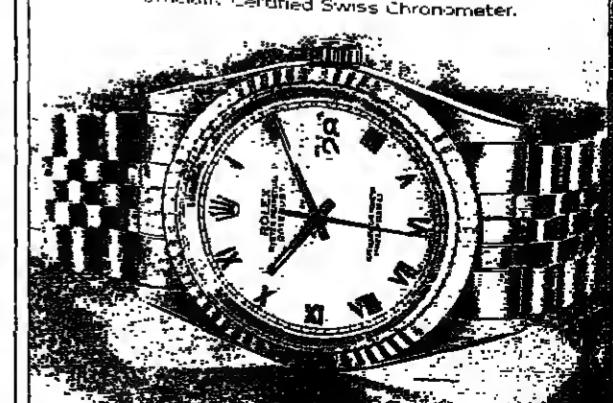
ROLEX

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## Millennium tomes: a reader's guide

AS AD 2000 approaches, there will be a flood of millennium books coming on the market in an attempt to part you from your Diana £5 coins. Well, forewarned is forearmed, they say, so here to put you on your guard is an initial selection of the most-to-be-feared millennium books due out in the next year or two...

*Start the Millennium with Melvyn Bragg*

This is the name of the very first programme due to go out on Radio 4 on the first day of the new millennium, and this book encapsulates many of the arguments and questions which will be raised on it, such as: Are we genetically programmed to welcome artificial dates like

The book is already written, the photos are taken, and all that remains is for Michael to agree to do the trip again, although if you question the BBC Books people hard enough, you will find they think they can do it without him actually being involved, except for the book signings.

*Missing the Millennium* by Will Self.

A guide to the best ways of tuning out in 1999 and waking up in 2000, or even AD 2001, having missed the entire celebrations and had a great trip meanwhile.

*A Child of the Century* by Nick Hornby.

Nick Hornby's new novel takes as its main character a young man who sees everything that's good in life (Arsenal, Rolling Stones, beer) as belonging to the 20th century and refuses point blank to enter the new, threatening century. He therefore refers to AD 2000 as "Nineteen-ninety-ten" and sees the year as the 101st of the old century.

Then he falls hopelessly in love with lovely young Megan, who is not only bang up to date in her calendar workings but a Spurs supporter. What will be done? And will he ever get his National Insurance straightened out?

*A Mayor of the Millennium* by Jeffrey Archer.

A rip-roaring new novel by master tale-teller Jeffrey Archer tells the story of thrusting Paul Wantage and his quest to become London's first mayor.

Wantage has many enemies, who are all jealous of him, and try to stop him becoming mayor, but, gosh, he is too clever for them, and he does become mayor, which is ooe in the eye for them, and a jolly good mayor he turns out to be, too.

*A Millennium Cracker* by John Julius Norwich.

An anthology of funny or clever things that people have said about the end of centuries. There aren't as many as you might think.

*A Millennium Feng Shui Book* by Wu Xing.

Where would be the best place to be standing when the new century starts? In which room in your house, and facing which way? Would it be so very unlucky to be caught on the loo as midnight strikes? Should you rebuild your house before 1 January 2000, just to be on the safe side? All these questions are raised in this invaluable book.

*The Millennium That Diana Would Have Wanted* by Earl Spencer.

No details of this book are to hand yet, except the price.

### MILES KINGTON

*A selection of the most-to-be-feared books due out in the next year or two*

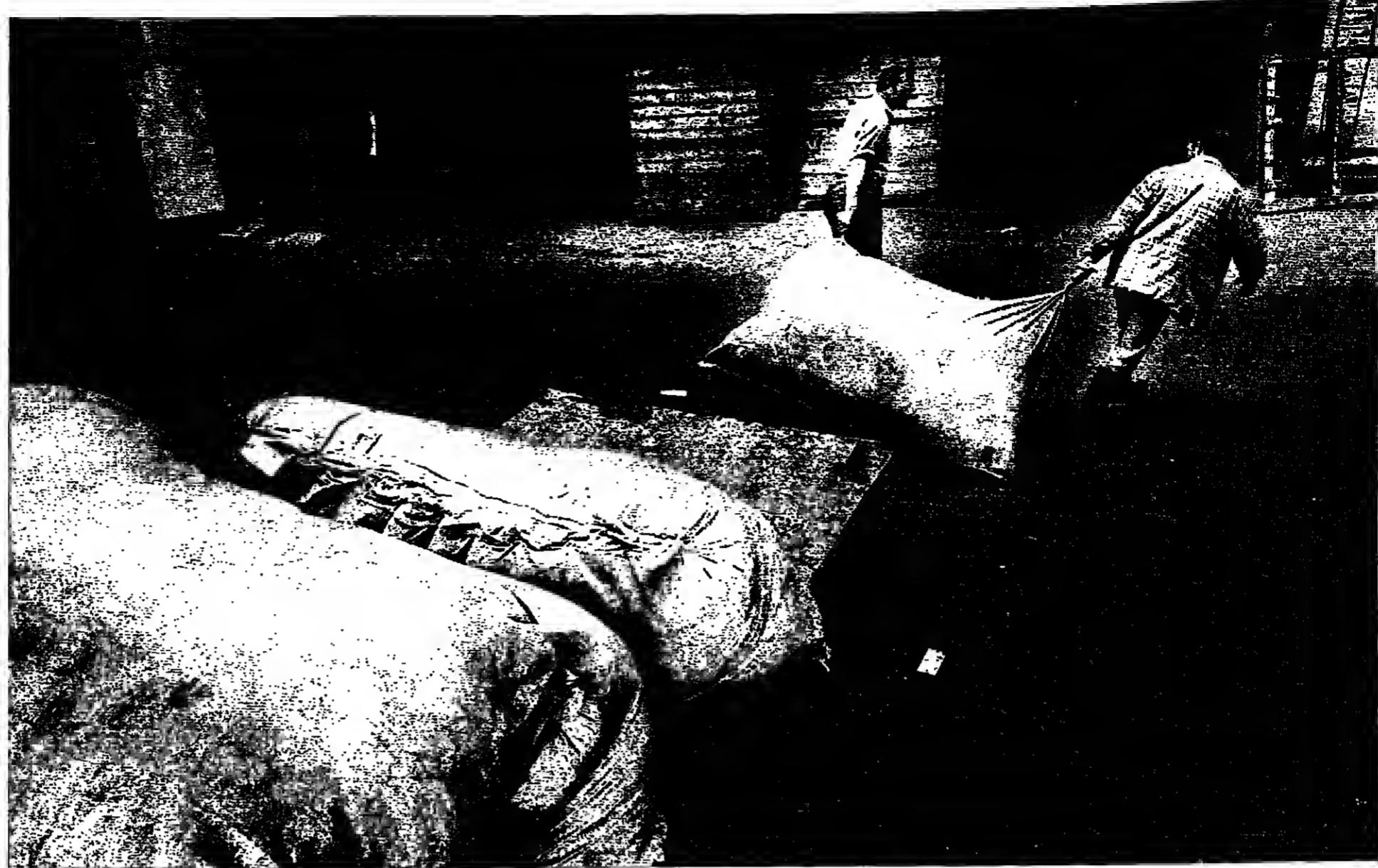
birthdays and millennia? What is the nature of consciousness? Why is Jonathan Miller late for the programme again? And perhaps most important of all, how on earth did they get the book of the programme out before the programme itself? Does time in some strange manner go backwards as well as forwards?

*A Wall in The Last Century* by Bill Bryson.

Bryson has undertaken a bold plan, to be the last person alive in the 20th century and to write a humorous best-seller about it. His idea is to book a hotel room on the other side of the International Date Line, in a spot which will still be 1999 while everywhere else is 2000, and walk around a bit and talk to the other people who are still marooned in the 20th century along with him. "It's a slight idea on which to build a book," he admits, "but it's always worked before."

*Around the World in Two Centuries* by Michael Palin.

Michael Palin has conceived the bold plan of starting a round-the-world trip in one century and completing it in the next, thus becoming the first person to take 200 years to go round the world. Well, he hasn't conceived it, of course, it's the BBC Book Division who have conceived it.



Our series on sheep shearing at Pymp Farm in Tovil, Kent, continues with the farm workers, at the end of the day, loading up fleeces for market

Rui Xavier

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

### In defence of doctors

Sir: Having read the valid concerns expressed about doctors and self-regulation ("Can our doctors be left to look after themselves?", 30 June), it must be said that 90 per cent of doctors are committed vocational professionals and determined to exercise clinical governance of the highest order. This has not been assisted by the shortcomings in NHS management, the harmful effects of which have impacted upon the entire NHS. All recent major inquiries have identified a background of poor management.

It is ironic that NHS managers who control the entire NHS resource, are subjected to less rigorous scrutiny, selection procedures and training than the professional groups they purport to manage. Doctors are under the microscope - why not managers? NHS management structures need to be as open, honest and clearly accountable as that which is quite properly required of the clinical work force.

Dr GRAINNE EVANS  
Clinical Director Children's Services  
Farnham, Kent

Sir: The pot calling the kettle black! Press tells doctors that self-regulation is not good enough! Though you purport to deal with the regulation of the medical profession, much of your argument (leading article, 30 June) is really against professionalism as such.

Of course the Bristol case was a tragedy and the General Medical Council is rightly under scrutiny by the press, but what are the alternatives? There are no very clearly effective models of how to regulate a profession, least of all *journalism*. Your editorial laments the restriction of medicine to the professional and middle classes but you do not suggest how you could usefully involve all strata of society in genuine participation in the regulatory process.

I am not convinced that the

involvement of academics outside

medicine - for example lawyers and

ethicists - in medical decision-

making would be any guarantee of

reasonableness, as exemplified by

the report last week by the

International Forum for Transplant

Ethics. They have come up with the

repugnant suggestion that as poor

people cannot get help any other

way, it is acceptable to remove their

organs to alleviate their poverty. We

should not rush headlong to abandon

professional self-regulation until we

have something better.

Dr PAUL KELLY  
London E9

*Opera subsidies*

Sir: Your claim (leading article, 1 July) that Covent Garden is "by any standard" lavishly funded ignores

the most obvious standard for a

European opera house - other

European opera houses.

A film can be shown in 100

cinemas in a single evening but the

film industry still seems to think that

it needs a higher level of subsidy

than Covent Garden - and that

includes the redevelopment cost.

The Metropolitan Opera in New York is considerably larger than Covent Garden but still needs an effective subsidy (through tax breaks) of over four times Covent Garden's annual subsidy to achieve the astonishing level of perfection identified in your leading article.

If you want opera in the UK that can "reach heights nothing else matches" with seat prices that everyone can afford, the Treasury will have to pay for it - ooe way or another.

BARRY WHITLEY  
London SE8

Sir: I read Andreas Whitman Smith's article on the Royal Opera House (Comment, 30 June) with mounting disbelief and unease. It drew sharp attention to the inordinate amount of money consumed by the maw of the capital at the expense of the regions. Five building projects are costing £967m. Add to this the cost of the Millennium Dome, something of supreme uninterest to the vast majority of the population, then add to this the cost of the new Tube link to allow Londoners to move around their city a little more easily and the figure must total over £2bn.

A capital city is always going to cost more - but London is not the centre of the known universe. Why does the Tate Gallery in Liverpool seem to carry only the crumbs that fall from the table of its London sibling? Why is regional theatre deep in the worst crisis it has ever known? Why does the National Gallery have many more satellite galleries?

The Royal Opera probably missed one of the finest opportunities offered to it by its temporary closure. Instead of staying in London, it should either have toured for a year, or taken lengthy residences at some of our finest regional theatres, since after all, we pay for it just as much as Londoners. Some way must be found to bring the resources of our "national" cultural resources to the taxpayers of the rest of the country.

There is a great deal of the nation outside the capital that would very much like to have decent access to our national cultural heritage.

NICHOLAS FRY  
Chester

Sir: As a (very) lapsed Jew, I want to offer an explanation for part of the decline in religious observance by Jews (report, 27 June; letter, 29 June).

It is that an increasing number of people simply cannot believe either that *Bronze Age mythology* is true or any longer of much relevance. This same slow realisation and reluctance to suspend disbelief is playing a part in eroding membership of all religions in the West.

MAX BERAN  
East Hagbourne, Oxfordshire

Sir: Dr Laurie Buxton (letter, 30 June) says that we should accept that there is not a God - how does he know? He suggests that religions in general, and Christianity in particular, seek to define God. Clearly he has very limited experience of people in faith communities. All major religions have their prescriptive and fundamental

elements. However, they also have liberal and progressive elements who do not seek to define God and who seek to learn and to adjust according to new knowledge and experience.

Atheists

have much in common with fundamentalists, both pretending they have knowledge that they do not.

ALISTER MCCLURE  
London SE8

Sir: Dr Laurie Buxton has a narrow European view of religion. He is wrong to suggest that all religions describe their gods in detail and assume that we on earth matter especially. The nature of a universal god is considered by Buddhists to be beyond the comprehension of the enlightened, "an unborn, an unoriginated, an unmade, an uncompromised". Buddhists have always sought to generate compassion for all sentient beings, in our universe and beyond.

NOEL THOMAS  
Bridgend, Glamorgan

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god is considered by Buddhists to be

beyond the comprehension of the

enlightened, "an unborn, an un-

originated, an unmade, an un-

compromised". Buddhists have

always sought to generate

compassion for all sentient

beings, in our universe and beyond.

NOEL THOMAS  
Bridgend, Glamorgan

Sir: I was delighted to see you

covering the issue of waste markets

and kerbside recycling ("Kerbside

recycling hit by fall in prices for

waste papers, such as newspaper

print, these will still not generate

high revenues to fund collection

schemes,

In order to attain both

environmental and economic

benefit, regional markets must be

created. Devolution and the

creation of regional development

agencies may facilitate the development of efficient regional waste markets, a system which has worked with great

success in the US. Work to this effect is being undertaken in Scotland and examined in Wales and is an issue being considered by the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development.

BEVINS WATTS  
University of Wales, Swansea

different tax regimes in different

countries. The EU regards different

tax rates as "harmful competition".

And such an illustrious figure as the

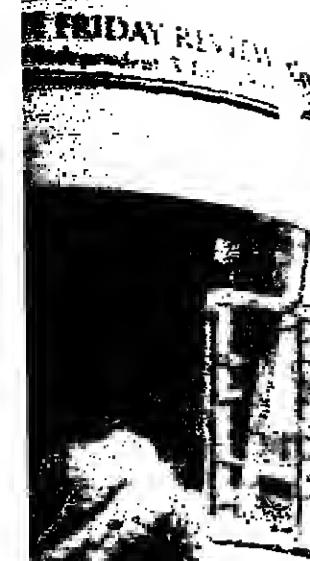
president of the Bundesbank has

said: "It is an illusion to think that states can hold on to their autonomy over taxation policies."

AUSTIN SPREADBURY  
Enfield, Middlesex

different

tax regimes in different



# THE INDEPENDENT

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## What happened to tolerance in the Catholic Church?

IS THE Pope a Catholic? Funny you should ask, because the answer would seem to be no. Not, at least, in the sense of all-embracing and tolerant. Earlier this week he issued a document, "In Order to Defend the Faith", designed to suppress liberal debate in the Church on subjects such as contraception, sex outside marriage, euthanasia and women priests. The effect will be to exclude people rather than include them. At one level, this can be seen simply as yet another step in the long march away from the liberalism of the Sixties and Seventies which came to an abrupt end with the death of John Paul I in 1978. But, at another level, this latest step could be qualitatively different from what went before.

Much of what is good about the Roman Catholic Church – and there is a great deal – depends on its history both as Roman, in that it holds to a set of principles and laws which are culturally specific, and as Catholic, in that it attempts to embrace people everywhere. Although the Church is fundamentalist in doctrine its strength has been that it is not fundamentalist in the application of doctrine. Its success as a global religion owes much to the fact that in practice it did not insist too much in South America, for example, on adherence to rules made up in Italy.

The significance of this week's pronouncement is that it seems to mark a move towards the rigid enforcement of doctrinal orthodoxy. In place of the adage, "Once a Catholic, always a Catholic", with its implication that minor deviations will be overlooked, the Pope seems to propose a political checklist: "You are not a Catholic unless you subscribe to X, Y and Z." This is against the tradition not just of the Catholic church but of the catholic church – meaning Christianity as a whole – with its central notion of penance, of redemption, of bringing people back into the fold.

The result is that Roman Catholicism is taking the wrong turning, one which is likely to reinforce all the ways in which it – or its conservative morality – has been a malign influence on the world. In much of the developing world, the benefits of the Catholic church's social and educational efforts have been blunted by its teachings on birth control and abortion. And in the industrialised world, too, the influence of Catholicism is still great. In this week's referendum in Portugal, parliament's attempt to liberalise the law on abortion was defeated – as one commentator observed, the Catholic church had "shown itself to be the only organised force in this country".

However, contrary to the daydreams of upper-class English Catholics, the Roman church is not enjoying a



revival either in this country or in the wider world. Indeed, the most charitable interpretation of the Pope's crackdown on dissent is that it is a misguided response to the deepening divisions in the Church. That weakness is most apparent in Europe, where the We Are The Church reform movement has attracted 2.3m signatures, partly fuelled by anger at the failure of the Church to face up to a series of terrible sex scandals.

The one notable exception has been the United Kingdom, where the skill of Cardinal Hume's leadership has been an object lesson for future Popes in how to hold the Church together in an increasingly sceptical age. Yes,

he espouses all the exclusivist dogma that goes with the territory, but his style is emollient and saintly, smoothing over sharp places and finding common ground. By contrast, the Pope's reassertion of the Church's most reactionary teachings, and his extension of the writ of papal "infallibility", can do nothing but harm.

This is not an anti-Catholic argument. We can have absolutely no truck with the kind of bigotry which put Roman Catholic churches to the torch in Northern Ireland on Wednesday night. It is an appeal to believers of all kinds to turn away from fundamentalism and embrace the virtues of tolerance and reason.

## Why the left has become the defender of our armed forces

THERE'S NOTHING odd about Gordon Brown and Robin Cook having their differences over defence. Back in the 1980s Robin Cook was one of the last important Labour politicians to accept Neil Kinnock's conversion from unilateralism and regularly voted for left wing motions on the National Executive seeking a reduction in defence spending to average levels for Western Europe. Brown, by contrast, was already in the vanguard of those backing Kinnock's decision to ditch the party's most unpopular and left wing policies – including its defence policy.

Nothing odd, that is, except one thing. The defence argument has been raging once again in the corridors and committee rooms of Whitehall. But this time the roles have been reversed; it's Brown who has been pressing for defence cuts, and Cook who has emerged among the ministerial champions of the forces. And not only Cook (who has been complaining in Cabinet discussion that Britain needs more rather than fewer frigates and destroyers) but also his former defence-cutting colleague Clare Short.

At one level, this is hardly a paradox. Every modern Chancellor has been sceptical about the size of the defence budget. Every Foreign Secretary has been anxious to ensure that diplomacy and influence are reinforced by military power. But it may also be that another, more subtle, force is detectable in the conversion of Cook and Short. Something has happened since the 1980s. Defence is no longer the defining issue between the Labour left and right that it was. Gradually, almost imperceptibly, it has become more respectable than

it was, on the left, to be against defence cuts.

Next Wednesday, Tony Blair will launch the White Paper following the Strategic Defence Review (SDR), probably the most far-reaching carried out by a Labour government since the one in 1967 that led to withdrawal from Suez. It amounts to a radical re-casting of Britain's military capability for a post-Cold War world in which the demands on it are very different.

But unlike East of Suez, which provoked widespread outrage, the SDR has been broadly accepted, even welcomed, by the armed service chiefs.

For while it will mean cutbacks of around ten percent over the parliament in the £16bn operational budget of the armed forces; there will be a compensating 15% increase in the defence procurement budget. Yes, the Territorial Army manpower will be reduced by around 17,000. But the Army's skilled, full-time manpower will be increased, by around 3,500, and the services will get the ferries and huge transport aircraft they need to move tanks and artillery to trouble spots around the world. Partly as a result, some 70 percent of the tanks now in Germany will be repatriated. Three aircraft carriers will be replaced with two larger ones. The generals have told ministers that, having only two brigades in the Gulf alongside the US forces, the British Army was extremely lucky not to have met greater resistance from Saddam's forces in 1991. Even in the last year, after repeated cuts by the previous government, some 84 percent of the Army has been on active service in Northern Ireland, Bosnia or elsewhere.

This has not happened without a ferocious battle with the Treasury. And indeed Gordon Brown has clawed back more savings – of around £600 to £700m over the next three years – than George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, had wanted to give. Valuable barracks – for example in Chelsea – will be sold. Private-public partnerships will be explored for high tech MOD research. And so on. But the armed service chiefs regard this as a price worth paying for having forces which will actually be able to

do what ministers say they can do.

The upshot of all this is that the juicy peace dividend many on the Labour benches had expected will not be forthcoming. But how much of an outcry will there be? Far less, I suspect, than there would have been a decade ago. Cook and Short (who has strong views that British forces need to be in Bosnia to prevent genocide) and knows the value of militarily protected corridors for the delivery of humanitarian aid) are not that untypical. Present day geopolitics, modern demands on the military, and the consequent benefits to British prestige, play to the internationalist instincts of the left in a way they didn't at the time of the cold war.

Defence is, of course, a matter for hard-headed realpolitik as well as tender-hearted idealism. The European Fighter Aircraft, costing £18bn over 30 years, not to mention the British made missile it will carry in preference to its cheaper US alternative, is not so easy to defend to backbenchers, as John Prescott, as well as Gordon Brown, has been pointing out in private. But there are pressing pork-barrel reasons for sustaining it: not least that the marginal constituencies, for example in Bristol and Stevenage, which depend on it, were promised during the general election that Labour would honour the previous government's EFA commitment. And fierce as Brown was in the negotiations, even he was glad to phase in reduction of nuclear submarines (from 12 to 10) slowly enough to protect Rosyth, in his own constituency.

Second, if Blair had not backed Robertson when he was resisting further cuts in his budget, the armed service chiefs might well have revolted. Even cuts of a hundred million more might have persuaded them to exercise their right to stomp off in protest to No 10. And given that Labour's electorally catastrophic unilateral defence policy is still relatively fresh in the voters' memory, the danger it faces from a public bust up with the armed forces is correspondingly greater than it is for the Tories – who had several.

Third – a factor it would be a mistake to underestimate – Blair almost certainly sees a trade-off between strong defences – the power to intervene militarily from West Africa to the Balkans or the Gulf – and public opinion on Europe. The stronger Britain is in its own right, including militarily, the less the British electorate will fear closer integration, over time, within the EU.

But this isn't all, even for Blair. Ministers have been struck by his hawkish line in relation to the Gulf earlier in the year and – even relative to the US – on Kosovo, about which Paddy Ashdown writes for us today (see Review, page 4). This is a matter of personal leadership and temperament. It's why he appointed a pro-military, strongly pro-NATO right wing Labour Secretary of State to the MOD. But it also strikes a chord with many of his backbenchers. Standing up to tyrants and dictators does not go down badly in the modern Labour party, including – sometimes even especially – those parts the defence lobby used not to reach. Which is why I suspect the old left wing anti-defence lobby may not bark as loudly next week as it once did.

## MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
The continuing political tensions in Nigeria



"Although eager to feel the pulse of the nation before taking any decision to end the lingering political tension, he [Abubakar] has conceded that the military is tired of governance. The trend now is in support of democracy worldwide," he said. In all, Abubakar recognises that the unenvi-

able mantle of leadership has been thrust on him at a critical juncture of Nigerian history, and the world is watching what he makes of the opportunity."

Paul Ejime in *PanAfrica News*

"There are problems with fresh elections. Who would head an interim government if not Abiola? If the military wants to head it again we're just back where we were. What we want is that the army should go back to the barracks and Abi-

ola should organise his own government around a sovereign national conference which would draft a new Constitution and sit as Parliament. Abiola cannot do worse than the army, and he has a mandate."

Beko Ransome-Kuti in the *Mail and Guardian*, South Africa

"Yet as Abubakar courts the goodwill of the world, Nigeria still is vulnerable to soldiers who are less eager to surrender power. Diplomats say some of Abiola's allies supported Abubakar merely to put each other in check and that the

threat remains of a coup attempt or a settling of scores."

Hugh Delios in the *Chicago Tribune*

"The Nigerian political wheel has turned again, the man who detained Abiola, General Abacha, is dead and detainees are coming out of jail. The question is whether years of confinement and isolation – and the killing of his wife – will have shaken even his powerful will to survive, and his tenacious ambition to lead Nigeria."

From *BBC News Online*

## Rigging the market against consumers

THE PRUDENTIAL yesterday increased its estimate of the costs of clearing up its part in the pensions mis-selling scandal from £400m to £1,000m. This is an astonishing measure of the scale of deception practised on the consumers of financial services by some of the most respected names in corporate history. It has seriously undermined the prospect of rationalising pension provision in this country. More immediately, though, it lends weight to the Consumer Association's charge that the entire financial services industry (with the honourable exception of company pensions) gives consumers a "raw deal".

It is too early yet to attack the new super-regulator, the Financial Services Authority, for not doing enough, as the association's director Sheila McKechnie did yesterday. The FSA has only just been created, and it was a good idea to merge the regulators under one roof. But it would be fair to say that the FSA has failed to define for itself an aggressive mission on behalf of the consumer. It needs to say that there is a difference between the free market and *laissez faire*. A competitive and efficient market does not require a hands-off policy from government. Quite the contrary. It was Conservative *laissez faire* and government subsidy – a bizarre combination – which produced the mis-selling of pensions.

A genuine free market requires equal information as between buyer and seller – a condition from which the present market for mortgages, loans, insurance and investment falls a long way short. The "front-loading" and concealment of charges, the complexity of terms and exclusions, and the sheer obfuscation of the small print ensures an inefficient market in which consumers do not get what they think they are getting, let alone the best price.

All the markets that really ought to matter to consumers are rigged against them. It used to be said that buying a car is the second most important financial decision the average person will make, after buying a house. The market for cars is so distorted that the same models can be thousands of pounds cheaper on the continental part of the so-called "single market". As for houses, no one knows what is going on because there is no open record of the prices at which houses change hands. But in pensions, the consumer is probably worst served of all. The FSA needs to assert itself by forcing pension providers to publish standardised and comparable charges.

It is time the consumer got a fair deal in the big purchases, where the difference between good and bad decisions can be thousands of pounds.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Speaking for myself – and I can only speak for myself – if there is a message, I want to be off it" Jeremy Paxman, *Newsnight* presenter answering Alastair Campbell's criticisms of the programme

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Don't trust first impulses; they are always generous" Charles Talleynrand, French politician

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## PANDORA

JUST LIKE the explosive wars in the Balkans and the Middle East, the battle between Downing Street's Alastair Campbell and the BBC's Jeremy Paxman is now spilling into neighbouring territory. At yesterday's morning briefing in the basement of 10 Downing St, someone mentioned that Paxman, in yesterday's *Evening Standard*, claimed his programme *Newsnight* was seen by eight million viewers a week. This drew Eleanor Goodman, Channel 4's political editor, to exclaim: "You mean eight million a year?" If histories continue to spread like this, we shall have to ask the UN to intervene.

THE HIGH Court yesterday dismissed the appeal for a retrial by journalist Martin Gregory and his publishers Little Brown in the libel case brought against them by PR consultant Brian Bashem back in November.

Gregory's book *Dirty Tricks*, about the British Airways-Virgin controversy was judged to have libelled Bashem after a heated trial. This was often attended by Richard Branson's parents and, at least once, by the Virgin boss himself, who was not litigant. But, Bashem had prepared a critical corporate report on Branson for his former client, British Airways, and had shown it to some financial journalists, which greatly angered Branson.

ANDREW Lloyd Webber's newly revived musical *Whistle Down the Wind* (see today's Arts pages for the *Independent* critic's view) received wonderful reviews in yesterday's *Times*, *Telegraph* and *Daily Mail*. Pandora enjoyed these even more because of what they did not say. *Times* critic Benedict Nightingale does not mention that his son, Christopher, is the show's musical director. At the *Daily Mail*, Michael Coveney modestly chose not to mention his expertise on Lloyd Webber includes currently writing the Great One's biography. Finally, the *Telegraph* saw no point in referring to the fact that Lloyd Webber reviews restaurants for its Sunday newspaper. Can't wait to see the show.

APPARENTLY The Sun's mini bowler hat, so popular with English football hooligans during the early stages of the World Cup, was confronted by a new fashion rival in St Etienne. Burly lads with

shaven heads were spotted wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the words, "Al Clark - Diamond Geezer". It was Alan Clark, Tory MP for Kensington & Chelsea, of course, who issued a stirring defence of England supporters in June.

THE RECENT departure of so many regular characters on *EastEnders* has presumably cleared the way for exciting new storylines to be developed. One of those who has gone is Paul Moriarty who played George Palmer - the "Flash Harry" of Albert Square. Should not a new local parish be found? Just up the road in West Ham, Sarah Amin, the former wife of Ugandan ex-dictator Idi Amin (below), has recently been discovered running a small cafe. If reports are true that Sarah still talks to Idi, who is in exile in Paris, couldn't she persuade the heaviest man to cross the Channel and come down to the Queen Vic - at least for an episode or two?

ON WEDNESDAY, The *Mirror* graciously gave readers of its late London edition the phone number of the Argentine Embassy. They were urged to call to say "well done" as a remedy for English post-defeat depression. Bihiana Jones, their press officer, said about 30 calls were received. Some rang with congratulations and, she said tactfully, "some with other messages".

THE IDIOTIC fashion for carrying your belongings in a hideous rucksack has made life hell on London's over-crowded public transport. With the designer lumps on their backs, ill-mannered rucksack wearers blithely smash into other passengers. What is London Transport's policy? Their spokesman told Pandora that, as yet, there were no written regulations about rucksacks but "generally passengers do behave in a reasonable way". Shouldn't LT give notice that passengers are expected to remove their rucksacks on the trains? "You would be phoning up to ask why we had spent the money on it," was the cynical reply. This is not good enough. Pandora's campaign against ruck-sack wearers begins now.

## We must intervene in Kosovo now



PADDY ASHDOWN

*The explosive situation in the Balkans allows the West no time for Dayton-style arbitration*

believe that they would be ready and willing to support such a plan.

With a proposal in place, and a clear stated willingness from the international community to take responsibility for its enforcement, we would have more authority in giving a clear and unambiguous message to both sides - Milosevic's army and the guerrilla KLA - that there is no military solution to this crisis, only

a political one. It would give us a context in which to take any military action necessary to persuade Slobodan Milosevic that we will not allow Serbia to win a military victory through excessive use of force.

Moving from an armed struggle to a diplomatic negotiation means using every available effort to get the KLA under political control. Many believe that the KLA is little more than a loose village-based organisation for ethnic Albanian self-defence. I am not so sure. But this loose organisation will soon - probably very soon - either reveal or create a central control and command structure.

As Robert Fisk has argued in these pages, the international community may have to be more realistic in talking to and dealing with the KLA. But we must balance this with a determination to guide the KLA towards a moderate political leadership.

The Albanian government is ready and willing to help persuade the KLA to take on a responsible political role. The youthful, impressive Macedonian Premier Branko Crvenkovski is eager to this effort under way, and eager to see the West take a more robust and active role

with his support. We should be taking advantage of this helpfulness and paying closer attention to the concerns of these two governments.

In a fluid situation, we need to reinforce the only fixed points - in this case the borders. That way, even if our efforts to prevent the KLA snatching full independence for the Kosovo province fail, at least it will make the situation easier to contain, both for ourselves and for Albania and Macedonia.

And if the Serbs start to attack ethnic Albanian villages on the Macedonian border, which the EU monitors tell me they are certainly planning to do, then Macedonia will soon have a refugee influx to cope with and an upsurge of Albanian nationalism along the border too. This is the real danger - that Macedonia becomes the detonator for a full-scale Balkan explosion - and this is what we must move swiftly to prevent.

If we have to take military action there may not even be time to wait for the UN to get a resolution from the Security Council. Any military action must have a clear aim, tied into the diplomatic campaign as part of a seamless strategy and as an ultimatum.

THE violence in Kosovo is escalating daily and if we wait too long we will be watching a regional conflagration this time next month, or even this time next week.

## Diana, David Beckham and a nation in emotional turmoil



SUZANNE MOORE

*The more uninhibited we become, the more we must be clear about just what we are expressing*

IT IS not the boy Beckham's fault that we lost. It is mine. I willed it. As an ex-boyfriend of mine slurred at me, at one in the morning, "I hope you're happy now" I am not that happy. My teenage daughter is not speaking to me because I was not supporting England. Still, that is not so bad. My friend's husband has moved into the spare bedroom, refusing to sleep with her because while he sobbed at the result, she laughed.

It is blasphemy, of course, to be unmoved by England's defeat, re-written - as all our defeats seem to be - as a kind of winning. Yet to stand back from mass emotion is not so rare these days, for as we have seen over the last year we are an increasingly emotional people. There were those who stood back from mourning Diana, Princess of Wales, complaining that the country went barney for a week over a silly, overprivileged woman. Some, too, stood back from the homecoming of Deborah Parry and Lucille McLachlan, and then of Louise Woodward.

While I still think that the mourning for Diana was immensely significant and far from hysterical, I feel sick in my stomach every time I see a St George's flag and I cannot share in the patriotic nationalism that a few football matches have provoked.

It would be easy to categorise the outpouring of emotion at Diana's death as somehow "female" and the lagered-up discharge surrounding the World Cup as inherently male, but that would be simplistic. Many men were profoundly moved by Diana's death; many women were deeply involved in the World Cup. For while there are those who read any expression of feeling as a sign of our decline into a touchy-feely, "feminised" society, we surely must distinguish between the different sentiments on display.

feel very uncomfortable indeed. That is not to say that every footie fan is a racist murderer, but that any kind of nationalism predicated on little more than a hatred of "foreigners" must continue to ring alarm bells.

While those who grieved for Diana talked of compassion and the need for a more inclusive society, football fans and commentators alike have gone on about our "bulldog spirit", expressing little more than nostalgia for British supremacy. If sport has replaced war as our national rallying point, can we be surprised when primitive violence erupts both on the field and off it? Equally, the Althorp shrine, the "museum of tears", may feed into equally stasitic instincts - though it is difficult to see how the canonisation of Diana could result in violence.

Despite all the cack-handed efforts to "rebrand" Britain by think-tanks and politicians, it is quite clear that Britain has been in the business of rebranding itself for the last few years. Inevitably this process of redefinition has been an organic rather than a top-down process.

A key period was the week following Diana's death. In that week we saw reflected back a people who were not afraid to express their emotions. We did not change overnight; we simply recognised that we had already changed. Was such a glut of feeling American, or Continental, we asked ourselves. No, we realised. It was not foreign; it was in fact British.

Yet a sense of ourselves, a national identity, if you like, cannot rise from the flames in a pure and uncontested way. The thuggish nationalism on show recently has been, in a sense, as sentimentalised as the teddy bears left around Kensingon Palace. The juxtaposition of jingoistic headlines with the aggressive faces of the white trash "witnesses" in the Stephen Lawrence case made me

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A LONG time ago, my mum told me never to speak to anyone until it was spoken to, so it is only after six months of listening and watching, sometimes patiently, and sometimes rather impatiently, that I now close my ears, shut my eyes and give voice.

The subject we are considering tonight is not debt whether others dine, but the unrepayable debts of the poorest countries of the world - unrepayable simply because of their huge scale in relation to the resources of the debtors, although not so large in relation to the resources of their creditors.

The magnitude of the problem is illustrated by the fact that between 1990 and 1993, the countries of sub-Saharan Africa transferred \$13.4bn annually to their external creditors, considerably more than their combined spending on health and education. That annual figure was prevented from being higher only because much of these debts had been rescheduled, thereby increasing the long-term burden on people who remain extremely unlikely to be able to pay in future more than

they can pay at present. Today, Africa owes the richest countries more than three times the figure that she initially borrowed. The total indebtedness of the poorer countries of the world is of the order of \$2,000 bn, according to the World Bank's figures.

During this decade, I have seen for myself some of the problems not as a tourist or as a businessman seeking trade but as a Church leader identifying with local Christian communities. I have camped in the bush in Uganda and stayed in the bush in Pakistan and in the townships of Namibia. I have experience of lack of clean water and sanitation and of direct access to health care and education. That is the daily lot of millions of people in the countries about which we are speaking tonight.

## Time for some gay abandon



PHILIP HENSHER

*It won't be long before we have openly gay bishops, generals, even footballers. Who cares, really?*

DO WE still need Gay Pride? So much has changed since the annual summer march and party began with a few hundred brave souls over a quarter of a century ago, on 1 July, 1972. Every specific measure of equality those heroic radicals hoped to achieve has, surely, been achieved, or cannot be far off.

Last week, it was the House of Commons agreeing to the equal age of consent. The immigration authorities have started to recognise the existence of gay relationships when considering applications for citizenship. Before long, the hated, the unworkable and the contemptible Section 28, which made it illegal for local authorities to "promote" homosexuality, will go.

Soon – you never know – employers may be prevented from sacking their employees on the mere grounds of sexual preference; the military's stated opposition to homosexual soldiers will be obliged to go the way of their more muted opposition to black soldiers; and finally a legal form of marriage. All these things are going to happen, and sooner than you think. What is there left to march for?

And the biggest aim of the radicals, who were inspired by the Gay Liberation Stonewall Riot in New York, has also come to pass. They wanted visibility, and here it is. But the idea of showing central London, one day a year, that homosexuality exists, has a curious absurdity: there might be some point to a Gay Pride event in Aberystwyth, or Carlisle, but there are a 139 gay bars in London. Most of them are full every night of the year – and not with people, I would guess, making much of a point about their sexuality, or embarrassed or secretive about it. And fewer and fewer people are embarrassed on their behalf.

We walk the streets. We are hairdressers, travel agents, and rock stars; we are also cabinet ministers, commodity brokers and plumbers. Everyone who knows us even slightly – and some of our best friends may be heterosexual – knows what we are. It won't be long before there are openly gay bishops, generals, and maybe even footballers. Who cares, really?

Of course, there are pockets of resistance to the generally smooth



Revellers at a recent Gay Pride parade. But is there enough common ground among homosexuals to justify such marches any more?

Drew Farrell

process of acceptance. Unprovoked violence against homosexuals happens; verbal abuse and snide comment in the workplace is common; and things are generally more difficult outside London.

It is still surprisingly easy for obscure homophobic clergymen and "public figures" to persuade newspapers to print their bizarre rants, giving queer-bashers a spurious justification. An unheard-of Tory backbencher saw nothing peculiar in remarking, in the debate on the age of consent, that if God had meant men to commit sodomy with each other, their bodies would have been constructed differently. I wonder what physical improvements, exactly, he had in mind. No one would march against these eccentrics, and in 10 years time no one will give a fig for their ludicrous and hate-filled views.

Anyone who thought that Pride had passed its sell-by date would certainly find support in the event's recent history. The disaster which has struck the organisation this year may be readily put down to a decrease in active support, a disinclination to go out and celebrate what is for many people an unremarkable part of their lives.

Pride's been growing for years, and last year the trust that administrators took the decision to expand it further. Radio stations announced the event merely as "Europe's largest free music festival", with a predictable result: 300,000 people turned up, a startling number of which seemed to be straight couples, come to giggle at the drag queens. Pride had become an embarrassment: one club party last year was pointedly called "Gay Shame and Lesbian Weakness", and was packed to the gills.

Last year's fiasco was bad enough, but the plans the new organisers, Pride Events UK, came up with for this year's festival – due to take place tomorrow – were even worse. The festival, it concluded, ought to be slimmed down, and funded by tickets at £5 a go, sold in advance from gay pubs and clubs. The decision to turn the festival into a ticketed event, however, backfired, when, two weeks before the day, fewer than a third of the 100,000 tickets had been sold.

Though plenty of noisy complaints were made about the injustice of charging for "the community" for a previously free event, what finally did for it was the simple fact that the Pride Festival hadn't been much fun last year – too

many straight people, too many superannuated disco divas on stage reviving their flagging careers. And many regular Pride attenders couldn't see why it would be any better this time around.

Poor ticket sales couldn't begin to meet the financial demands which the organisers, apparently, hadn't foreseen. The police, noticing that they were no longer supervising a free event, quite properly sent in a bill for £25,000; Lambeth Council's fee for the hire of Clapham Common, £150,000, fell due; it turned out that the health and safety provisions were disastrously inadequate; and the cashflow just dried up.

Not trusting to late ticket sales, the trust postponed the whole festival. All that's taking place this weekend is a semi-organised march, and a few dozen smaller events. Apathy from the punters and amateurism from the organisers, it seems, have triumphed: the journalist Paul Burston summed up the general feeling: "We may be incapable of organising a piss-up in the park."

Perhaps now, there doesn't seem a lot of point. There was a great deal of point to Pride in 1972, when the assumptions of shame and vice

were virtually universally held. But now?

If there was ever a gay community, it has become completely fragmented. Homosexuality, increasingly, is no more an automatic common ground between strangers than heterosexuality. And this is reflected in the way Pride is dividing, spawning co-ops, more specialised off-shoots. There are several Gay Prides in the provinces. There is the London festival in August, Summer Rites, universally regarded as a bit more cutting-edge than the main festival. And this year a group are trying to put some politics back into Pride with a free alternative festival in Soho Square.

Pride, itself, looks doomed: it would be a brave man who took on its organisation after this year's debacle, and the possibility that there might not be another festival on the scale of recent years is being widely voiced. Perhaps we just don't care enough any more about our sexual status; perhaps the number of us who consider that homosexuality is not just fundamental to our existence, but something which defines us – something we want to march to demonstrate – is on the wane.

And yet I don't think it's time to call it a day. Soon, there might not

be that much left to fight for, or against; but not quite yet. There are still enough people in the world who don't consider homosexuality remarkable: there are gay men who don't live within a couple of miles of Old Compton Street, there are lesbians who have never even met another lesbian. And there are those others who have no intention of dropping the subject. Anne Atkins and her dreary, churchy crew, going on about sodomy, the yobs lying in wait with baseball bats; the ladies who don't object but don't want their noses rubbed in it.

What's going to keep Pride going is its strange, enchantingly slapdash merriment – I'm going to reclaim a word here – its unexpected gaiety.

It's not quite a serious political march, nor, quite, a jolly neutral festival, but a party, an absurd and harmless riot which continues, if you feel like it, for 24 or even 48 reckless hours.

It's a celebration of the incredible luck of being queer right now. And having the best fun in town, every single night of the year. And not least, it's a chance to gang up on the streets; the irresistible, wonderful opportunity to yell at builders "Oi,artin', over 'ere". You should see them blush.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

BRIAN DAVIS



The Chief Executive of the Nationwide answers the charge that mutuals have no future

It is not for me alone to respond to Hamish McRae's comments on Approved Welfare Providers (AWPs). Whether AWP should be mutual is for the Government. Clearly, financial institutions will need to be involved and Nationwide Building Society is keen to play its part.

I would like to respond to some of the more general points made by Mr McRae about mutual organisations. First, the value of these organisations is not, as he suggests, largely a matter of "nostalgia". No organisation can afford to stand still. The high street is fiercely competitive. Indeed, the high street is no longer confined to the physical high street at all – telephone services and the Internet have all expanded notions of access and service. This is not lost on mutual organisations – Nationwide, for example, was the first UK financial organisation to launch an Internet banking service.

On a wider front, as Mr McRae states: "Mutual life assurance groups are still top performers." And looking at the mortgage and savings markets, building societies are increasingly taking more than their normal market share. In 1997, for example, Nationwide took a greater share of net new mortgage lending than the Halifax, Abbey National and Alliance & Leicester banks put together.

The argument that pics have to be more efficient because they need to satisfy their shareholders is a myth: customer-members are just as demanding. A mutual's resources are used for the benefit of its members and they demand that their organisation is efficient. On a measure such as costs to assets, building societies easily outperform most of the banks.

Mutual organisations are contributing to competition to the overall benefit of all.

## Taking pride in a land fit for queens

A WEEK is an especially long time in gay politics. In the same week the age of consent for gay male sex was lowered to 16, Gay Pride (the annual event which gives new meaning to the words "party politics") was cancelled. The march will go ahead as scheduled in London tomorrow, but the on-again, off-again festival has now been delayed until August.

The Pride dispute makes *Queens'* Country a timely addition to the plethora of books on gay culture in the 1990s. Paul Burston's travels around Britain map not the range of gay experiences in this most liberated of decades. Is there such a thing, he wonders, as a "gay community" which unites gay and lesbians? The short answer is, yes and no. His emphasis on the diversity of gay lives in the face of a commercialised gay scene is correct. But what makes Burston such fun to read is his prickliness.

He refuses to avoid confrontation and is often contentious, but always compelling – even at his most bitchy. "Growing up gay in South Wales is like being trapped down an abandoned mineshaft with a chorus of short fat men with hairy backs, pissed on foul-tasting beer and singing rugby songs," he comments. So much for South Wales, but it made me laugh.

The real value of his book lies in the serious questions it asks of gays and lesbians, particularly about politics. Has Gay Pride, overrun with sponsorship, become a victim of its own success? Does the marketing of gay lifestyle have anything to say about real lives? Has the power of the almighty pink pound led to a dulling sameness in gay culture? Why marry? All of these questions Burston addresses with vigour and sass. While I don't always agree with his conclusions (he's rather hard on cruising, for example), he is always challenging. As one man's take on the contradictions of gay life, *Queens'*



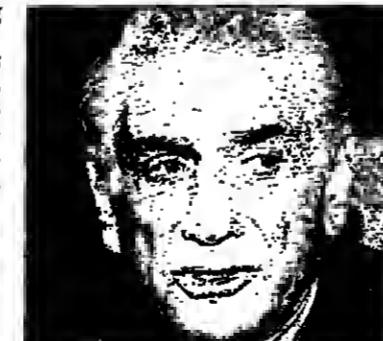
## FRIDAY BOOKS

QUEEN'S COUNTRY  
BY PAUL BURSTON, LITTLE BROWN, £16.99THE GAY METROPOLIS, 1940-1996  
BY CHARLES KAISER, WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON, £20

Country makes for an entertaining and topical read.

According to historian Charles Kaiser, gay and lesbian liberation is perhaps the liberation story of the second half of the 20th century. The speed of this "journey from invisibility to ubiquity, from shame to self-respect" is unparalleled. But, for Kaiser, the story of gay and lesbian liberation is also quintessentially an American one, in which social outcasts resist adversity in order to find acceptance and establish community.

What distinguishes *The Gay Metropolis* from other overviews of gay history is the breadth of Kaiser's decade-by-decade account and his lively use of individual stories.



Through interviews and letters, Kaiser has amassed a riveting oral history of gay men's experiences (as

he admits, lesbianism is not really his focus) from the Second World War, when homosexuality was still most unspeakable, to Clinton's America, with a president whose political campaigns quite openly advocated gay rights.

One of the strengths of the book is in seeing how different generations of gay men have understood sexual identity. That homosexuality remained categorised as a mental illness by the American Psychiatric Association until 1973 still seems extraordinary to someone of my generation, a teenager in the 1980s. That gay men and lesbians managed somehow to thrive despite such definitions is even more remarkable.

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE.



If you tell your girlfriend, will she think less of you?

## FRIDAY POEM

SCREEN  
BY YANG MU

First, the wall's particular mood  
maturing behind warp and woof of satin and paper  
like a crop anticipating autumn  
an allusion reaches from the painting on the screen  
transmitted through a teapot  
snagging with a smile  
knocking over landscapes and butterflies

In swift vehicles and sojourns at inns  
Forlorn guilty, packing  
a familiar tune  
Don't know the mood when the sun sets and dew falls  
I paint my eyebrows  
while you head for the wine shop.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from *No Trace of the Gardener* (Yale University Press, £20). Lawrence R Smith and Michelle Yeh's translations of the poems of Yang Mu, who was born in Taiwan in 1940.

MARK TURNER

In many ways, his optimism is justified. Homosexuality is more visible in popular culture. British cabinet ministers can be openly gay, drug cocktails are reducing viral loads in HIV-positive people. Things certainly seem to be getting better but, in the words of one activist who closes the book, "This is our christening or *bar mitzvah*. It's not our entry into heaven."

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# Galina Brezhneva

BREZHNEV'S REIGN began ominously. The criticism of Stalin that had characterised the rule of Brezhnev's predecessor, Khrushchev, was quickly silenced and with this act the era of dissidence was launched. Underground publication of forbidden writings, or their smuggling abroad (samizdat and tamizdat, respectively), prison, exile and deportation to the West for recalcitrant writers constituted the "liberal" treatment of intellectuals who under Stalin would simply have been exterminated.

Behind this facade of phoney ideological vigilance lay another world. Khrushchev had removed the spectre of terror and harsh sanctions for

*The television programme charted her rise and fall from a not unattractive, free and very easy young woman into a coarse, foul-mouthed fright*

exacting Party officials, and in all the regions Party Secretaries had begun to feel secure. Patronage and local power could now be exercised without fear of sudden disgrace and worse. The Party barons and satraps grew fat, prosperous and self-absorbed. In a country that was short of everything, goods, and goodies, were the rewards reserved for the nomenklatura and their friends and relations. The Communist élite knew all about networking long before the term was current in the West. Mutual back-scratching, a word in the ear, a telephone hint, these were enough to secure access to whatever benefits and small luxuries the consumer economy could provide.

Among the dramatis personae who benefited most from this situation was Galina, Brezhnev's beloved and hopelessly spoilt first-born child to whom, it seemed, he could deny nothing. A startling portrait of Galina at the age of 63, and shown on Yorkshire TV in 1992, charted her rise and fall from a not unattractive, free and very easy young woman into a coarse, foul-mouthed fright. Throughout the filming she demanded to be kept supplied with champagne – "otherwise I can't think" – and realised that she had been filmed while swigging from a bottle of lemon-flavoured vodka in the back of the car; she used the language of the gutter to curse the cameraman.

She claimed that she had been os-tracised by the Brezhnev family for her wild behaviour – a hooligan they called her – and was alone with only her memories and her booze for comfort. Portraits of her once-handsome father and some of the lavish gifts he had received from foreign dignitaries adorned her apartment, which was located in the leafer Moscow districts.

With a large, well-built dacha outside the city, and other assets returned to her in 1990, as well as an undisclosed pension, Galina was not quite a symbol of the decline into penury of the Communist nomenklatura. Indeed, many of them are living better now than they could ever have dreamed, even in the parlance of Full Communism.

Galina Leonidovna Brezhneva was born in Sverdlovsk (Yekaterinburg today), where her father had just been appointed Deputy Chairman of the Regional Executive Party Committee. Brezhnev's rise was not "meteoric". He did not achieve a prestigious job in the hierarchy until 1939, when he became Party Secretary of Dnepropetrovsk, a major industrial region in Ukraine, where he later made big strides in his post-war career. Galina studied literature at the local Teachers' Training Institute and then at Kishinev University, when her father became First Secretary in Moldavia in 1950.

Star-struck from an early age and a passionate devotee of the circus, in Kishinev at the age of 21 she met with a pure stream of deeply moving and utterly original poems that this writer is likely to be remembered.

Robert Graves may have seen no less when the 14-year-old Seymour-Smith turned up on his doorstep one weekend during the Second World War when Graves was living in a village in Devon. "You looked so serious with your little case," Graves told him later. Seymour-Smith had sought out the senior poet because of the way a single Graves poem, "The Legs", had spoken to him. That poem is about the merit of going one's own way, and resisting all pressures to conform. It was something that Seymour-Smith managed to do all his life, despite many vicissitudes.

The early friendship with Graves was not a matter of master and disciple. Graves acknowledges the young Seymour-Smith's help in the introduction to his extraordinary "grammar of poetic myth" *The White Goddess* (1948), and later employed his friend to act as tutor to his children when the family returned to Mallorca. The older poet

treated Seymour-Smith as an equal, his poetic peer; and from the start they shared a passion not just for poetry but for myth and magic and the roots of language. It is possible that Graves learned as much from Seymour-Smith as Seymour-Smith learned from Graves. The figure of the inspired poet-child Taliessin, in *The White Goddess*, has struck more than one observer as owing something to the encounter be-

and married Yevgeny Milaev, a circus acrobat and strongman who was twice her age. She always wanted to become an actress or something in the circus, but Milaev would not allow it. But through her he became head of the Moscow Circus and she apparently did occasionally work as a make-up artist when the circus travelled abroad. After eight years of marriage she divorced him on the grounds of his adultery, although by all accounts she was just as guilty.

Her father was made a member of the Politburo in 1962 and now stood on the pinnacle of Soviet power. In the same year, at the age of 33, Galina eloped to Sochi on the Black Sea with her second husband, Igor Kio, the 18-year-old son of the head of the KGB circus family. Brezhnev was furious at this show of indiscretion, independence and blatant bad judgement, but Galina claimed she didn't care what he thought. The marriage was ended after one week, when local militia officers were ordered to "annul" the marriage by removing the relevant page from the couple's identity papers. Galina was told to leave the world of the circus and do something serious, like working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

She had never joined the Party and regarded politics as a waste of time which would be better spent in the pursuit of love and pleasure. The theatre and the world of the arts now beckoned, and for Galina Moscow definitely meant the Swinging Sixties. Among the "lуви" she found many a young lover, but fell especially heavily for the Bolshoi dancer Maris Rudolf Liepa and was heartbroken when he dumped her.

Husband Number Three was a handsome, well-groomed lieutenant-colonel in the militia. She was 42 and Yuri Churbanov was a married man of 32 with two children. She was at the height of popularity within the narrow world of actors, artists, highly polished criminals and black marketeers, and an officer of the militia would not have seemed the most appropriate choice of spouse. But Churbanov had his own agenda, and soon his beneficent father-in-law promoted him to the rank of general, covered him with medals and made him First Deputy Minister of the Interior.



Leonid Brezhnev with his daughter Galina at the Kremlin in 1976, celebrating his 70th birthday

Galina soon started a long-term affair with Boris Buryatsa, a gypsy actor of 29 whom she foisted onto the Bolshoi Theatre. Buryatsa turned out to be a diamond dealer – "The Diamond Kid", he was called, because of the large number of gems he wore on his person. A veritable Soviet Gary Glitter.

The corrupt regime, and its now moribund Chairman, Leonid Brezhnev, had become an international embarrassment and a stagnant pool. Andropov, the puritanical head of the KGB whose succession as leader of the Party and state was virtually assured, kept secret dossiers on Galina and her friends, and in 1983 she was jointly accused with

Buryatsa of stealing diamonds from a famous animal trainer. She was left untouched, but he was tried and put away. Also in 1982 her beloved father died and, with Andropov in power, she was cast into oblivion.

In 1983, as Gorbachev's campaign against the old corrupt Brezhnev system gathered pace, Churbanov was arrested, given a show trial on charges of bribery, dealing in foreign cars – Brezhnev had owned 80 luxury automobiles – and a million-dollar sum in which state payments were made for the delivery of non-existent cotton from the mafia-dominated Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan. He was given 12 years in the so-called "cop zone", a

special labour camp for former policemen and top officials in the still-functioning Gulag in the Urals, where he languished until 1993, when Yeltsin ordered his release for no known reason.

In July 1994 Galina, now aged 64, remarried. Her intrepid fourth husband was described as a "small businessman", aged 29. It is not known whether they remained together until she died, reportedly of a stroke.

Harry Shukman

*Galina Leonidovna Brezhneva: born Sverdlovsk, Soviet Union 1929; four times married (one daughter); died Moscow 30 June 1993.*

## Martin Seymour-Smith

*Anthony Burgess likened Seymour-Smith to Samuel Johnson, and certainly he resembled Johnson in the breadth of his interests and the passionate audacity of his judgements*



treated Seymour-Smith as an equal, his poetic peer; and from the start they shared a passion not just for poetry but for myth and magic and the roots of language. It is possible that Graves learned as much from Seymour-Smith as Seymour-Smith learned from Graves. The figure of the inspired poet-child Taliessin, in *The White Goddess*, has struck more than one observer as owing something to the encounter be-

ship meant much to him: Norman Cameron, James Reeves, David Wright, and later C.H. Sisson. He saw himself (quietly but firmly) as belonging to a tradition of English poetry which reached back through these men to Thomas Hardy and John Clare, and beyond them to Coleridge and Donne.

It was not a tradition in much favour at the time, though Seymour-Smith did find a place in Philip Larkin's *Oxford Book of Twentieth-Century English Verse*. The discerning, in short, were aware of this man's presence on the sidelines of a game in which he chose to play no part – the game of poetic fame. He comments wittily on this state of things in his poem "Request on the Field", written in response to James Reeves's urging him to "get on the pitch among the knaves and fools / And play the game according to their rules":

I needed your wise words, and now am on the field  
With shirt and socks and red-cross shield.  
But before you dribble off, at captain's call,  
Could you explain the absence of a ball?

Tween Graves and Seymour-Smith at the moment when Graves was beginning work on his study of poetic inspiration.

Seymour-Smith's first books of verse, published in pamphlet form in the Fifties and then collected in two more substantial books, *Tea with Miss Stockport* (1963) and *Reminiscences of Norma* (1971), earned him the attention of other independent poets whose friend-

are the 13 poems which comprise Section III of *Reminiscences of Norma*, giving that book its title, and his poem "The Northern Monster" which concludes:

I had forgotten, in a mortal heat,  
The distance of love's act from its intention;  
That boundless North, which threatens to defeat  
Both love's reality, and its invention...

Such lines suggest Seymour-Smith's affinity with Donne and Henry Vaughan. C.H. Sisson has remarked that Seymour-Smith "is a poet of the kind, and sometimes of the quality, of Henry Vaughan. Yet he seems armed, by his sophistication, to do battle in the larger world of 20th-century illusions".

Those illusions took a battering in Seymour-Smith's 1,200-page *Guide to Modern World Literature* (1973) and in his later *Who's Who in Twentieth-Century Literature* (1976), encyclopaedic works of erudition in which hundreds of authors are discussed. Anthony Burgess likened Seymour-Smith to Samuel Johnson because of these books, and certainly he resembled Johnson both in the breadth of his interests and the passionate audacity of his judgements. But there was always a quiet side to his scholarship also, most evident in his fine old-spelling edition of Shakespeare's *Sonnets* (much praised by William Empson)

and in his monumental and authoritative biographies of Robert Graves (1982, revised edition 1995) and Thomas Hardy (1994).

His final collection of poems, *Wilderness: 36 poems 1972-1993* (1994), again bears out Sisson's characterisation of Seymour-Smith's poetry as "the common speech of a highly sophisticated mind".

*The Times* said of this book that "anyone who cares for English poetry will want it", pointing out that "Here, plainly, is a poet who writes poems only when he has that to say which can be said no other way".

Martin Seymour-Smith was born in Highgate, London, in 1928, and died suddenly at his home in Bexhill-on-Sea on Wednesday, cared for to the end by his wife Janet de Ganville. He once described himself as "tense, malarial, angry as a hull when roused", stooped, ugly, clownish, bearded, and a compulsive talker who seldom allows anyone else to get a word in". His poems, though, came from compulsions that were not selfish, and they certainly allow readers in.

Robert Nye

*Martin Seymour-Smith, poet and writer: born London 24 April 1928; married 1952 Janet de Ganville (two daughters); died Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex 1 July 1998.*

## Terence Altham

THE DECLINE of Britain's once-dominant textile industry was felt acutely by Terence Altham since, at one time or another, he had apparently worked for, or met, everyone who was anyone in the world of cotton, nylon and, latterly, wool.

This vast range of contacts and former colleagues became an enormous bank of goodwill on which he was eventually able to draw in valuable measure when he took up the cause of Texprint in 1991. This small design-orientated body had been quietly operating under the auspices of the Design Council for 18 years when Altham was invited to become its chairman, in the wake of various Thatcherite reforms. Texprint, now funded entirely by hard-won industry contributions, has become a highly regarded source of bursaries and has "kick-started" the careers of more than 5,500 of this country's top textile design graduates.

When Altham took over the chair in 1991 of a somewhat motley committee of educationists, designers, journalists and retail buyers, they were immediately awed by his range of contacts and the diplomatic way in which he would win the support of one international "name" after another.

Selecting the best from an annual graduate pass rate of more than 500 individuals was, in itself, a daunting task. But more seriously, the Texprint committee had to ensure that there were sufficient funds to maintain the bursaries, as well as fund the initial exhibition and travel costs for at least 20 people to show their work. The annual display of graduate work was held at the Interstoff fair in Frankfurt and, more recently, the mammoth Première Vision event in Paris.

Altham's career took off during the Second World War, when he became a major in the 2nd/5th Royal Gurkha Rifles, but came down with a bump in 1946 when he became a mill trainee at the Horrocks plant in Lancashire. By the time he left in 1966 he had become general manager of their fashion division. He ran the company's Hanover Square showroom and found himself supplying both the Queen and Princess Margaret with Horrocks' cotton dresses.

In 1960 he moved to Joseph Bancroft and Sons, the American yarn and cotton goods group, as commercial director UK and director Northern Europe. The European experience led him to become European marketing director for the American silver knit manufacturers Borg Textiles from 1970 to 1975 before joining the International Wool Secretariat (IWS) in 1976 as director of women's wear; in charge of co-ordinating world-wide Woolmark marketing strategy.

By 1982 he was thinking of retirement but successive managing directors of the IWS found Altham's experience and contacts too good to lose. Throughout the late Eighties and early Nineties he continued to propagate for wool as director of international projects.

These activities saw Altham at his most persuasive, bringing in the great and good of international fashion one after the other: Armani, Clara Boni, Paul Costelloe, Romeo Gigli, Donna Karan and renowned international companies such as Escada, Max Mara, Ermenegildo Zegna and Missoni.

However many awards he received – he was made a Fellow of the Textile Institute in 1965, awarded the institute's medal for distinguished service to the industry in 1988 and elected a senior fellow of the RCA in 1990 – Texprint will be his testimonial through the success of scores of British graduates now working all over the world for leading designers, textile companies and retailers. Terence Altham achieved as much for Britain's continued reputation for design as any one individual could do.

David Harvey

*Terence Blair Altham, textile promoter: born 22 January 1924; chairman, Texprint 1991-98; Fellow, Textile Institute 1965-98; Senior Fellow, Royal College of Art 1990-98; married 1953 Pauline Read (one son); died London 15 June 1998.*

## Nikhil Chakravarty

A member of the Communist Party of India for over three decades, Chakravarty constantly attacked India's deteriorating political standards in prominent publications, provoking debate and trying hard to instil a sense of probity into an apathetic public and an increasingly corrupt and unaccountable establishment.

Chakravarty was also perturbed by falling social and political standards in neighbouring Pakistan and Bangladesh, believing that all the South Asian countries shared a common heritage and economic interdependence. Such was his regional standing that he was equally respected in Dhaka, Colombo, Islam-

abad and Kathmandu. Despite frail health, Chakravarty recently led a people's march to Wagah, in the northern Punjab state, the only operational land crossing between India and Pakistan, and held an all-night candlelight "vigil" in a symbolic effort to normalise relations between the two nuclear-capable neighbours who share 51 years of antagonism, including three wars.

Chakravarty was born in 1913 in Silchar, in the north-eastern state of Assam, the son of an upper-middle-class Bengali professor. He was a brilliant student and, after graduating from Presidency College in Calcutta, in the mid-1930s he went to Merton College, Oxford, to study History.

In 1952, when his wife, Renu Roy, was elected to parliament, Chakravarty moved to the capital, Delhi, where he launched the Indian Press Agency in 1957 and his weekly magazine *Mainstream* five years later.

Twenty-one years later Chakravarty left the Communist Party of India for the Liberal Party of India. In 1983 he became the founder and head of Non-Aligned Media or NAMedia, a body opposed to the media monopoly held by cash-rich Western countries, particularly the United States. He was also elected president of the Editor's Guild of India the same year. Last November Chakravarty

was appointed chairman of the Prasar Bharati Board, a corporation set up to bring greater autonomy to the state-owned All India Radio and Doordarshan television, but was unable to complete his assignment.

Nikhil Chakravarty was an intensely serious person whose intransigence in things around him was infectious, and influenced and encouraged an entire generation of journalists.

Kuldeep Singh

*Nikhil Chakravarty, journalist: born Silchar, India 3 November 1913; married Renu Roy (one son); died New Delhi 27 June 1998.*

DESPITE BEING one of India's best known journalists, renowned for his learned commentaries on social and political affairs, Nikhil Chakravarty liked to be called a reporter. In 1990, he turned down the Padma Bhushan, one of India's highest civilian awards, on the grounds that journalists should not be identified with the establishment, as it clouded their objectivity.

A staunch defender of press freedom, Chakravarty was one of a handful of Indian journalists applauded for doggedly opposing the state of emergency imposed by the Indian prime minister, Indira Gandhi, in 1975, when the press was censored and fundamental rights

## Terence Altham

THE DEATH in a plane crash of Alioune Blondin Beye, the African diplomat who was the UN's Special Representative for Angola, has come at a crucial time for the peace deal which Beye did so much to broker and which now seems in danger of collapse.

Beye had been on an official mission to Togo where he was seeking support from the government in the capital Lome to abort UN sanctions against Unita and its leader, Jonas Savimbi, who was failing to honour the peace process. To proceed with this latest round of diplomacy, Beye had cancelled a visit to Vienna where he was expected to attend a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Flying from Togo, and some 7km east of Abidjan, the Ivory Coast commercial capital, the small Beechcraft plane, on lease to the UN from a South African company, crashed into a mangrove swamp. All 20 on board, including five members of the UN Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) and two pilots, died instantly. In New York, the security council was finalising the imposition of further sanctions on Unita and Beye had said that if the increased pressure on Savimbi did not work this time, then he would resign. Beye, the Special Representative for five years, was losing his legendary patience with Savimbi – and so was the government of national unity and reconciliation in Luanda led by president Eduardo dos Santos.

Beye was a former Foreign Minister of Mali, who had occupied a senior position in the African Development Bank in Abidjan. He was a lawyer by training and had lectured on international public law at Dijon University in France. He had been legal counsel to the Mali government. An anti-apartheid militant, in June 1986 he had been elected by the Organisation of African Unity to the 11-member African Commission on Human Rights and Peoples. He was a member of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers.

Beye was appointed Special Representative for Angola in June 1993, replacing the British Under-Secretary-General Margaret Joan Anstee who was retiring from UN service. There was some surprise at Beye's appointment, which was made by his friend, the then Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Beye was a francophile and spoke fluent French, yet the mission for Angola was English-speaking, and negotiation generally in Portuguese.

By the time Beye was appointed Special Representative, an estimated 450,000 Angolans had died since civil war



Beye's achievement was to get the two rival groups in Angola to sit down and write a draft agreement

broke out on the eve of independence from Portugal in 1975. Throughout the Cold War the US had backed Savimbi against a pro-Moscow government in Luanda. Accords signed in 1991 brought an 18-month peace that led to UN-sponsored elections, but the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) and its leader Savimbi resumed fighting after he lost the race for president.

Beye was optimistic in his first months as Special Representative, but soon he realised that this mission was going to be a long haul. His achievement was to get the two groups to sit down together and write a draft agreement, the Lusaka Protocol. This agreement, signed in 1994, was very much Beye's creation and it provided a guaranteed place for Savimbi in the Angolan administration and integrated armed forces. Beye thought this peace plan was doable but he knew that at its heart was a power struggle for the incredible wealth of Angola. Savimbi would not re-

linquish easily his ambitions and the agreement was a triumph of hope over experience.

Beye had a fervent devotion to his duty, inspired by a belief in the potential of Africa. He knew that with the resolution of the Angolan civil war would come development for the whole region.

Beye was not always popular with his staff. He could be impatient with colleagues and was demanding of their time. He often behaved as a *chef de village*, running the UN mission for Angola in his own way. He called the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, "ce garçon" ("the boy"), although there was little difference in their ages. Beye could be ferocious in his criticism but he never bore a grudge. He laboured hard and there were recent fears for his health after he underwent a heart bypass operation in January. There was an increased sense of urgency in his work and a fear that the peace deal would unravel while the wealth of Angola continued to be spent on arms.

The UN lacks an institutional memory and Beye's work, like that of so many other dedicated internationalists, is likely to be unremembered in the future. In Angola today there is the remaking of roads and a situation as precarious as it has ever been with the country seemingly set on the path to another hell.

An investigation into the plane crash is being launched. When the news of Beye's death reached UN headquarters in New York, there was immediate speculation that his plane had been sabotaged to destroy a peace deal, it is often convenient to kill the peacemaker. Angola is one of the greatest human tragedies of our time. It may turn out that Alioune Blondin Beye's determination to end the long suffering of the Angolan people cost him his own life.

Linda McIver

Alioune Blondin Beye, lawyer and politician; born 8 January 1939; twice married (two daughters); died near Abidjan, Ivory Coast 26 June 1998.

## OBITUARIES/7

## HISTORICAL NOTES

ANTHONY BIRLEY

## An emperor's burning desire for glory



Hadrian: not just the beard was new

"HADRIAN WORKS", says the road sign at Bamburgh in Northumberland – to direct lorries to a paint factory. "Hadrian" is a favourite trade name in those parts, because of the Wall. It still dominates the skyline. If people knew more about the tortured soul who ordered its building on his flying visit in AD122, they might prefer a different label for their products.

"Changeable, manifold, fickle, cunningly concealing his envious, unhappy and lustful nature, be posed as self-restrained, affable and mild, disguising his burning desire for glory"; thus a fourth-century chronicler tried to sum Hadrian up.

As a boy, Hadrian was nicknamed "the little Greek" because of his devotion to Greek studies. Most people would not have known about Hadrian's obsessive philhellenism when he became emperor in 117. Some people may have guessed when they saw the first coin portraits. He sported a beard, the first emperor to do so – but a well-trimmed, classically Athenian beard, not the philosophers' long whiskers. Hadrian may have been an intellectual, expert in architecture, astrology, etymology and other disciplines, but he preferred bunting to philosophy.

Not just the beard was new. So was the policy. Hadrian's first move was to abandon several newly conquered eastern provinces.

After three years at Rome to establish his position, he began his first provincial tour: to see everything for himself, "driven by insatiable curiosity" – and what he could not see in person was reported by the secret police. As for the Wall, the Britons had, it is true, caused heavy Roman casualties in an uprising. But Hadrian's answer was overkill on a monumental scale, less to keep out the barbarians, more a statement for internal consumption: no further expansion of the empire. Soon Hadrian began to portray himself as a second Augustus. History was rewritten: Suetonius, Hadrian's Chief Secretary, duly presented the first emperor as an anti-expansionist in his *Lives of the Caesars*.

After 123 Hadrian never returned to the west. He was captivated by the Greeks. He created a new commonwealth for all Greek cities, the Panhellenion, centred at the vast temple of Olympian Zeus, which was begun nearly 700 years previously but never completed. He was thus reviving a project

Anthony Birley is the author of *Hadrian: the restless emperor* (Routledge, £10)

## GAZETTE

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES &amp; DEATHS

## BIRTHS

POTHALINGAM: To Kate (née Craven) and Ketish, a son, Thomas John Vignesh, born on 13 June 1998.

## DEATHS

HARDY: Judith. A thanksgiving service for the life of Judith Hardy has taken place at St James Church, Bramley. Donations in her memory to "Save the Children Fund" and the Bishophay Foundation for Disabled People" or "Action Health", to be sent to Geoffrey Church & Co, 48 Bishophay Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 4HD.

## SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 9.06pm. United Synagogues: 0181-343 5883. Federation of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-586 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4751. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-253 2573. New London Synagogue (Mazor): 0171-322 1026.

## LECTURES

Tate Gallery: Mary Rose Beaumont, "Lucian Freud in Context", 1pm.

## BIRTHDAYS

Miss Evelyn Anthony, writer; 70; Sir Bernard Burrows, former diplomat; 88; Mr Robert Crawford, Director-General, Imperial War Museum; 53; Mr Tom Cruise, actor; 36; Sir William Deakin, former Warren, St Antony's College, Oxford; 85; Mr John Forbes-Meyer, ambassador to Ecuador; 56; Mr David Gando, racehorse trainer; 60; Mr Neil Gerrard MP; 56; The Hon Sir Eustace Gibbs, former Vice-Marshal, the Diplomatic Corps; 69; Sir Richard Hadlee, cricketer; 47; Mr Carlos Kleiber, conductor; 68; Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, former chairman, Runnymede Trust; 62; Mr Iain Macdonald, yachtsman; 53; The Very Rev Dr William McMillan, Chaplain to the Queen in Scotland; 71; Mr Michael Martin MP; 53; Professor Michael Oliver, cardiologist; 73; Miss Susan Penhaligon, actress; 48; Mr Stephen Pound MP; 50; Mr Ken Russell, film director; 71; Baroness Ryder of Warsaw, founder, Sue Ryder Foundation; 75; Mr Geoffrey Sammons, former senior partner, Allen & Overy; 74; Dame Heather Steel, High Court judge; 58; Mr Tom Stoppard, playwright; 61; Sir John Swan, former premier of Bermuda; 63; Sir John Waite, a former Lord Justice of Appeal; 66; Sir John Wills, Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset; 70.

## ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Louis XI, King of France, 1423; Robert Adam.

## DINNERS

Anglo-Venezuelan Society Dr Antonio Casas Gonzales, President of the Central Bank of Venezuela, and Mrs Casas were the guests of honour at a reception and dinner held yesterday evening at the Savoy London W1, to mark Venezuela's Day of Independence. Mr Roy Chaderton-Matos, Venezuelan Ambassador and President of the Society, with Mr Jack Wigglesworth, Chairman, and Mrs John Flynn, Mrs Maria Shammas; Mr and Mrs Wajid Al-Kayani, Dr and Mrs Jorge Zamella.

## BYRON SOCIETY

Lord Byron, President, the Byron Society, presided over a meeting held yesterday at the St Ermin's Hotel, London SW1. Professor Charles Robinson spoke on "Byron and America". Mr Derek Wise, Deputy Chairman, and Mrs Elma Dangerfield, Honorary Director, also spoke.

## GARDENERS' COMPANY

A Court Meeting of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners was held yesterday at Carpenters' Hall, London EC2. Mr R.L. Payton was installed as Master, Canon P. Delaney as Upper Warden, and Mr V. Robinson QC as Renter Warden. The Installation Court Dinner followed.

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen visits the Thistle Foundation, Craigmillar, Edinburgh, and the Edinburgh Breast Unit, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh. The Duke of Edinburgh vis-

its the Bootle Maritime City Challenge sites, Merseyside. The Prince of Wales attends a service in Westminster Abbey, London SW1, to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the National Health Service. The Princess Royal visits Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire, on the 40th

anniversary of the granting of its Royal Charter; visits SmithKline-Beecham, Irvine, Ayrshire, and names the new Atlantic 75 class lifeboat and opens the new boathouse at Largs Lifeboat Station, Strathclyde. The Duchess of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Adjutant General's

Corps, visits the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester, Essex.

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

## Assessment of benefit from drug trafficking

## FRIDAY LAW REPORT

3 JULY 1998

Regina v Gooch  
(Court of Appeal)  
(Criminal Division)  
(Lord Justice Mantell,  
Mr Justice Mitchell  
and the Recorder of  
Newcastle)  
26 June 1998

Lord Justice Mantell said that under section 6 of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 the court was entitled to make certain assumptions with regard to property which had been in a defendant's possession at any time during the period of six years ending with the date "when the proceedings were instituted against him".

The Court of Appeal reduced the amount of a confiscation order made against Malcolm Gooch in proceedings under the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 following his conviction of one count of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition of the importation of Class B drugs, namely herbal cannabis.

The appellant had originally been tried, with others, on two counts of conspiracy to import cannabis, but was re-tried after the jury had acquitted on one count and failed to agree on the other. On the retrial, the Crown indicated that they wished to proceed, not on the conspiracy count, but on two substantive counts. The defence successfully applied for severance of those two counts, and the Crown elected to proceed on one count only.

The appellant was convicted of that count and in the subsequent confiscation proceedings he was found to have benefited from drug trafficking in the sum of £4,728,208.90. His realisable assets were assessed at £650,000, and a confiscation order was made in that sum.

It was argued for the appellant that in those circumstances there was no statutory machinery for establishing the date on which those proceedings had been instituted.

If, however, one asked when the proceedings which had led

to the defendant's being convicted of a drug trafficking offence had been instituted, there were two possible answers: either when the indictment containing the count of which he was convicted had been preferred; or when he was first charged in the proceedings which had eventually led to his conviction.

Had Parliament intended the former, it would surely have said so, as it could hardly be imagined that section 2 of the Administration of Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1933 had been overlooked. Consequently, Parliament must have intended the latter, and the proceedings in the present case had been instituted when the appellant was first charged with conspiracy.

The appellant had also attacked the admissibility of certain foreign evidence obtained pursuant to letters of request. It was not disputed that without the evidence, the "proceeds" figure would have been £3,527,208.90. Each of the letters referred to the substantive count which had not been proceeded with at the retrial.

Section 3(1) of the Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990 clearly stated that evidence obtained by virtue of a letter of request should not, without consent, be used for any purpose other than that specified in the letter. Since the count which had been dropped was no longer a live issue at the time of the confiscation proceedings, the evidence should not have been used in those proceedings, and the "proceeds" figure would, accordingly, be reduced.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

## WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

spin-doctoring n.

and anything done by a spin-doctor because spin-doctoring. Spin was only a question of interpretation in events: spin-doctoring included manipulation of the events themselves.

And it is growing. On our database there were 115 instances of spin-doctoring in 1996, 154 in 1997. So far in 1998, the score is 133.

## NEW YORK CONFIDENTIAL

## Titanic sequel sinks without a trace

IN THE aftermath of *Titanic*'s global success, the world's media is so hungry for stories about Leonardo DiCaprio it will print almost anything, no matter how outlandish. Last week, for instance, several British tabloids reported that he'd been offered \$33 million to star in a sequel to *Titanic*. There's only one thing wrong with this: DiCaprio's character, Jack Dawson, drowns at the end of the original film.

THE BRITISH reports were based on a story in last week's *Globe*, the American supermarket tabloid edited by Tony Frost, formerly of *The Sunday Mirror*. According to *The Globe*, ingenious writers at Paramount Pictures have got around the obvious flaw by having him rescued by a life raft. (I can imagine a young hustler trying to convince a sceptical studio executive that Dawson isn't really dead, he's just resting.) He's eventually reunited with Rose, Kate Winslet's character, when they meet by chance during the First World War, when she's working as a field

nurse. This sounded highly implausible, not least because Paramount Pictures doesn't own the sequel rights to *Titanic*, which was made by 20th Century Fox. A quick call to Cindy Guagend, one of DiCaprio's publicists, confirmed this. "Completely made up," she said.

NOT THAT DiCaprio's "people" are particularly reliable guides to what the actor's really up to. At this year's Cannes film festival the producers of *American Psycho* put out a press release claiming DiCaprio was set to star in their movie for \$21 million. It quoted his manager, Rick Yorn, saying, "Leo is extremely excited about this script and has decided to make it a priority."

THIS STORY also sounded unlikely since the lead character in *American Psycho* - based on Bret Easton Ellis's novel - is a yuppie psychopath who eats human flesh. This is unlikely to appeal to DiCaprio's fans who are predominantly teenage girls.

Sure enough, two weeks after this story appeared, DiCaprio's handlers announced that he wasn't going to star in the film after all.

NOW FOR a true story about Leo. Last April, I went to see the hypnotist Paul McKenna who was performing his act on Broadway in the hope of landing an American television deal. I went backstage afterwards to tell him how much I'd liked the show and he was kind enough to introduce me to DiCaprio who was also backstage. DiCaprio was accompanied by his best friend, the magician, David Blaine. DiCaprio had come to see McKenna because he wanted to be hypnotised in order to be cured of a troublesome affliction. Unfortunately, McKenna was too discreet to reveal what it was.

AFTERWARDS, WE all went off to a restaurant. By the time the food arrived, Leo had been joined by his notorious "pussy posse", a rag bag collection of



TOBY YOUNG

Dinner with Leonardo DiCaprio and his mob of female admirers; Anglo Saxon fury at the stealth paparazzi from Posh Spice

actors, film makers and musicians. Before long, the models started arriving and began to insert themselves at the table as close to Leo as possible. One of these girls - she can't have been a day over 19 - started necking with a friend of Leo's and then, almost literally, dragged him off to the woman's bathroom. They stayed in there for about 20 minutes and, when they re-emerged, the man had a huge grin on his face. At first I

thought I was the only one who'd noticed this but suddenly the whole of Leo's table rose as one and gave the happy couple a standing ovation. The girl howled graciously and then sat back down as if she'd done nothing more shocking than go outside for a cigarette. I was enormously impressed. Perhaps not all of the stories about Leo and his pals are made up after all.

LEO'S "PUSSY posse" may have to be more careful in future. New York's beau monde is currently up in arms about a gaudy new threat to its continued well-being: stealth paparazzi. These are apparently normal kids who frequent Manhattan's trendy nightspots and fashionable parties armed with hidden video cameras. If they catch a celebrity with his or her pants down they activate a switch concealed in their trousers and the poor creature's indiscretion is then broadcast live on the web.

You don't believe me? The website is located at

www.spy7.com. Along with free photographs of sexy "teens" and a camera purportedly trained on a girls' school "dorm" it promises an up close and personal look at Manhattan at "nite".

"Each and every night," it boasts, "our talented spies, wearing a hidden fibre-optic lens/camera, will visit dozens of New York nite spots from 11pm till 3am, in search of stars, glitterati and celebrities, to catch them at their wildest and most vulnerable moments."

UNFORTUNATELY, IF you're not a member of the Spy7 club you can't access the footage in its archive. However, the good news is it only costs \$19.95 to join. So far the scandalous behaviour of the "stealth paparazzi" have caught on camera consists of nothing more exciting than a couple of micro-celebrities sleeping off too much alcohol. However, the website is only two weeks old. I'm confident that Leo will be caught doing something silly before the end of the month.

THE BIG story in New York at the moment, as far as the British hacks are concerned, is the presence of David Beckham who arrived on Wednesday to join Posh Spice at the Four Seasons.

My friend, Bill Coles, The Sun's New York correspondent, managed to get through to Posh Spice fifteen minutes after England's defeat by Argentina on Tuesday.

Almost unable to believe his luck, he identified himself and asked her how she felt about her boyfriend's antics in the game.

"You've got a nerve," she snapped, "calling me up now." She then said she had "no fucking comment".

Bill, who to my knowledge is only the second Sun journalist ever to have been educated at Eton, was disappointed by his encounter. "She didn't sound as posh as I thought she'd sound," he told me.

Let's hope, therefore, that the "stealth paparazzi" catch them both doing something unspeakable in the very near future.

## Why did Paula want to die?

Paula Yates's suicide bid shows the true depth of a mother's desperation. By Jack O'Sullivan

WHEN PAULA Yates was found hanging from the back of a door earlier this week, it was hard to fathom her attempted suicide. Everyone knows that she is a highly emotional person. But she is also known as a caring mother, a 33-year-old woman with four children, the oldest 15, the youngest just 23 months old. How, one might ask, could she think of abandoning them?

The statistics seem to bear out this sense of surprise. People in caring roles are considerably less susceptible to suicide than those without dependents. Nevertheless, experts on suicide say that motherhood is no protection against a self-inflicted death. Think, for example, of Sylvia Plath, the poet, who killed herself and left two toddlers.

"At the point of deciding to die," says Di Stubbs, of the Samaritans, "everything disappears down that tunnel. However many people depend on you, however many important things you may have to do, they all become absolutely irrelevant at that point when you feel you cannot tolerate the pain any longer."

Paula Yates's pain has been heavy. Last November, her intended husband Michael Hutchence, the Australian rock star, killed himself. A suicide immediately increases the risk that the bereaved will also die by their own hands, according to Ms Stubbs.

The taboo has been removed. People think such and such did it, so they can contemplate it more at the front rather than at the back of their minds, where the rest of us keep such ideas. Also, a suicide is more likely to provoke negative emotions than other forms of death. You would like to be filled with love

and compassion when really you want to go back to the person and shake them. People are troubled with guilt at such feelings."

The style of Paula's attempt also suggested its close link to the loss of Michael Hutchence. He likewise hanged himself on the back of a door. "My gut reaction to hearing this," says Ms Stubbs, "is that she was perhaps trying to get closer to him. Maybe she thought that the only way she could understand what had happened was to re-enact it."

Hutchence's death was just the latest experience that Paula Yates has had of abandonment. She learnt last year that her biological father was, in fact, the late Hughie Green, one-time host of *Opportunity Knocks*. She had never suspected this startling news while she was growing up. And she discovered the truth of being left by him only after the ultimate abandonment: his own death.

Other factors also make Paula Yates vulnerable - the man she thought was her father was Jess Yates, presenter of *Stars on Sunday*, who suffered from manic depression. She has said that he used to look after her as a child during the absences of her mother, the actress Helen Torren, who was often away filming. And then, of course, Yates has also gone through a messy divorce, linked to her own adultery with Hutchence after 18 years of marriage to Bob Geldof.

Her four children would, however, be unlikely to appreciate these factors if they lost their mother. Nor would they readily take into account her depression, for which she had been taking Prozac. They



Paula Yates with daughter Tiger Lily

side of the family will have nothing to do with him.

More than 20 years later, the daughter is in a loving relationship but won't marry for fear that she might be abandoned again. She will not have children, and she says that whenever she sees friends with children who are five or six, it takes her back to that day. Her mother was 38 when she died, and she wonders what will happen to her when she is that age.

"She says to me: 'I don't want to know why my mum died. I want to know how much longer I am going to feel like I do'."

A little girl of 11 rings me up often. She is very traumatised. When she was five her mother hanged herself in front of her. She wrote to me recently: 'It's sad when you love them and they just disappear'. This girl, whose mother suffered from depression, now is missing considerable amounts of school herself through depression.

Mrs Middleton's organisation currently runs nine groups around the country. "Depression is the biggest killer. But I have been shocked to discover three men whose wives had hysterectomies and killed themselves soon after. They had not made the connection themselves, but each said that their wives had been happy-go-lucky and then suddenly changed."

Statistics bear out the risk of long-term damage to the children of those who kill themselves. George Brown, in his study *The Social Origins of Depression*, found that losing a mother before the age of 10 more than doubles your chances of

developing depressive illness. Children of parents who kill themselves almost always need some psychological help or counselling, according to Dr Dora Black, Britain's leading expert in the field, who is a child psychiatrist at London's Traumatic Stress Clinic.

The long-term problems are worse, she says, if a death has been witnessed by a child. "Death will have more impact than if it was expected or could be prepared for."

Dr Black adds: "Children see suicide as a deliberate act by the parent to remove themselves from being a parent. So the child is left wondering, 'Did I do something to make Mummy go away?' These questions will also be there if a mother attempts suicide unsuccessfully, but at least they still have a mother alive to address the question.

"Ninety per cent of all suicides are in the context of mental illness, usually depression. So it is important to help children to understand that Mum or Dad had a mind sickness. Children can understand body sickness and they need to know that this is the same sort of thing; that it stops the mind working straight."

Conveying this notion of illness is one reason, says Ms Stubbs of the Samaritans, why it is important not to use the phrase "commit" suicide. "The less people blame Paula and Michael, the better it is for their children. The word 'commit' hurts the survivors. Suicide ceased to be illegal in 1961. The trouble for Paula and her children is that it still sounds like a crime."

Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide can be contacted on 01422 563387. The Samaritans can be contacted on 0345 909090

## CLASSIFIED

TEL: 0171 293 2222 FAX: 0171 293 2505

## Legal Notices

## ZIP TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED

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## EX10 8JL, quoting the above reference.

## 8/FEATURES

## No. 004374 of 1998

## IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

## CHANCERY DIVISION

## COMPANIES COURT

## IN THE MATTER OF

## EUROTUNNEL PLC.

## NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 16th day of June, 1998, filed in the High Court of Justice, London, in the matter of the Company, for the confirmation of the reduction of capital of the above named Company from £414,500,000 to £55,874,169 and the reduction of the share premium account by the sum of £229,176,59.

## AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Master of the Courts of Justice, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LJ on Wednesday the 15th day of July 1998.

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## NOTICE IS HEREBY



Protestant marchers in Antrim. To the loyalists who want to parade down the Garvagh Road it is all about remembering the past and marking their place in the future

Brian Harris

THE PROBLEM of Northern Ireland is a heady brew of history, geography, religion and nationality, of rival rights and allegiances, of competition for power and territory, of deep bitterness. Drumcree combines all of these in the most difficult way possible.

It is only one road, it is only one march, but it encapsulates all the most difficult elements in the sharpest way. To most outsiders, various compromises suggest themselves: have a parade but make it as quick and as inoffensive as possible; or ban the parade, endure a dignified protest and go off and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Up close it all looks so different. This is the fourth Drumcree, and the first three have had such an impact locally that nothing is simple any more: every detail has become charged with huge political significance, every compromise loaded with connotations of weakness and surrender.

The past three years have been awful for everyone except those who revel in conflict and who see life as an endless struggle against the other side: unfortunately, there are many of these in Portadown. The next few days will provide a key test of whether the new spirit of partnership emerging elsewhere in Northern Ireland can penetrate the local layers of intransigence.

To be a Unionist and an Orangeman in Portadown seems to impose a special sense of duty on Protestants. The Orange Order has played an important role in the north of Ireland for two centuries, long predating the state of Northern Ireland.

Often it has been the backbone of Unionism, uniting the various disparate elements of that cause in one instantly recognisable brotherhood. At important moments it has supplied the authorities with the nu-

# The long march

To the Catholics of Portadown, the loyalists' annual march to Drumcree church is a supremacist ritual. But the Orange Order must have their historic parade. If they do not, they betray their forebears and their own identity. By David McKittrick

cles of the security forces. Throughout the 20th century nearly all Unionist leaders, up to and including David Trimble, have been Orangemen.

Estate agents say the price of a house is determined by three things: location, location and location. Ask a Portadown Orangeman why getting down the Garvagh Road is so vital and you will receive three explanations: tradition, tradition and tradition. Failing to maintain the route would clearly amount to letting down all those past generations who managed it.

The Orange Order was born following sectarian clashes in the vicinity of Portadown in 1795, locals taking great pride in the fact that the first district lodge was founded in their town the following year. Armagh is known as the Orange county.

The first Orange church service at Drumcree was in 1807. Although the general assumption today is that the problems with the march are of recent origin, the history books tell a different story. Orangemen were arrested for taking part in illegal marches in 1833 and 1834, and again in 1866; a Protestant youth was

shot dead by police in 1869; there was serious rioting in 1892.

The splendidly pro-Orange *Portadown Times* gave this description of a clash with Catholics in 1873: "A most wanton and unprovoked attack, dastardly and despicably sneakish, was made upon the Orangemen from the backs and windows of the houses with stones, brick-bats, large pieces of broken crockery, all of which were thrown with a violence and continuity perfectly compatible with the skulking puttnoony that dictated such a plan for waylaying a number of peaceable men whose only crime was that they were Protestants and loyal subjects."

The recurring clashes with both

police and Catholics have created an Orange mind-set that it is their duty to stand up to what they see as period attempts to rob them of their marching rights. While grassroots Orangemen are aware of this in a general way, local heads of the Order are well aware of the details of the past.

The local bosses lack what might be called the vision thing. Their own histories laud those District Grand Masters who stood firm and got

their marches through. The present DGM, Harold Gracey, has been an uncompromising rock in classic Orange mould, railing against Jesuit priests and promising to camp out at Drumcree "for as long as it takes" to have the march put through. The Jesuits he referred to have a house off the Garvagh Road, providing an element of guidance for a Catholic community which, like the Protestants, has lacked creative leadership. Catholics have always been a minority in the town, though further south in Armagh county they predominate. In Portadown they regard themselves as very much a victim community, a small put-upon island of green stranded in a sea of Orange.

Many wound up in Garvagh Road after being intimidated from other parts of the town. They see themselves as an unwilling but essential element in the pageantry of Orangeism, believing that the Order's rites are essentially supremacist and would not be complete without the ritual humiliation of some Catholics.

The lot of Catholics in many parts of Northern Ireland has improved over the years as their num-

bers have grown and they have made their way up the social and economic ladder. Nationalists and republicans elsewhere have SDLP and Sinn Fein MPs and a new sense of empowerment. Seamus Mallon, who on Wednesday was elected deputy first minister of Northern Ireland, comes from the south of the county. But much of this has passed Catholic Portadown by: it remains isolated and outnumbered, left to face what it regards as an annual metaphor for triumphalism and lack of equality. On top of this comes its deep dissatisfaction with the police.

Both last year and in 1996 the parade was pushed through by thousands of police officers in anti-riot gear who cleared the Garvagh Road to let the marchers through.

In strict policing terms this made

sense, for if the parade is going through it is important to keep the two sides apart. But residents say the road was cleared with much roughness and what looked suspiciously like enthusiasm in the use of batons, and the result was a great increase in nationalist indignation against the police. Then

there was a murder last year when a local Catholic man was kicked to death by loyalists; the RUC strenuously denies the allegation that police did not intervene, but the case has burned its way into the local Catholic psyche.

All this may give an impression

of the various elements forever reacting the same bitter tableau year after year, without variation, but the fact is that there have been highly significant changes in the character of the dispute. At one time, the marches may have been, as Catholics claim, an annual display of Orange superiority and domination. But recent decades have not been happy times for Unionism, with the steady growth of nationalist power, influence and numbers. In recent years, the parades have taken on a character of Protestant consolation, expressing not jubilation in Unionist ascendancy but a sense that at least one parade can be got through, even if so much else has been lost.

The thought has taken root that 1996 was a Pyrrhic victory, and that all but the real fanatics would be dismayed by a repetition. But although this is a strong factor, it has to date remained secondary to the traditional imperative of marching.

Tony Blair will need all his skill to convince the two sides that both sets of rights are being respected, that compromise is not defeat, and that there exists a middle way which respects the pride and dignity of all.

## BUILD YOUR OWN LIBRARY

4: CLARE LONGRIGG ON PETER BARBER'S WORLD OF MAPS

# There's more to this than geography

PETER BARBER is passionate about maps. As deputy librarian at the British Map Library, he is about to move two and a half million of them to their new premises in St Pancras, and appears unfazed by the task: "We'll be up and running again in four weeks."

He displays the same poker-player's sang-froid when it comes to recommending the books to read upon his subject. With a smile which asks, "do you really want to play?", he holds out in front of him four kilogrammes of book. This is Volume 2, Book 2 in the mammoth *History of Cartography* series, which is being published by the University of Chicago Press (edited by JB Harley and D Woodward, £150). "If anything has made car-

toography into a serious subject, it is this," says Mr Barber. "The fourth volume is about to appear and they haven't even got to 1500 in Europe yet. Before this, you have no idea how the history of maps was looked down on in academic circles as a dilettante subject, easily confused with the history of science, the history of exploration or the history of antiquarianism. This series has marked the coming of age of cartography."

For Mr Barber, this change in perception is vital. Thirty years ago, maps were seen either as the pursuit of collectors who wanted pretty things to hang on their walls, or as the heroic fight of man against his environment. He cites two books as being the best standard works in each tradition.

*The History of Cartography* by Leo Bagrow and RA Skelton (CN Watts) is essentially the history of maps produced and the people who produced them, written from the librarian's and the collector's point of view. Lloyd Brown's *The Story of Maps* (Dover Publications) is less detailed on the antiquarian aspect, and much more interested in the scientific and technical side: how maps were produced, and what were the improvements in mapping techniques.

Both books are now out of print, but it may be possible to obtain them from Valerie Scott, at Map Collector Publications.

But for Peter Barber, maps are not about geography – "I'd go potty if they were," or about the heroic fight of man against his environment. He cites two books as being the best standard works in each tradition.

He illustrates the point by referring to a map of Pennsylvania, reproduced in *Tales from the Map Room* (BBC publications, edited by himself).

"Here you have a map produced by a Quaker in 1680 for Charles II, but being a Quaker, he omitted all the fortresses,

which is in fact what Charles II wanted."

With each section written by a leading expert, *Tales from the Map Room* covers the aspects of mapping not dealt with by the traditionalist Bagrow and Lloyd Brown: maps as lies; their use for the political message; their distortion for commercial reasons. The book sold out its first imprint of 10,000 and was on *The Times* best-seller list for eight weeks, but is now, sadly, out of print. Why? "You ask the BBC," replies Peter Barber, with good humour.

Where, then, is the lighter fare for the general reader?

"I would suggest two series of publications which really open the world to a lot of other aspects of mapping," says Mr Barber. "One is a series being

produced by the British Library. They are very good, accessible guides to the history of cartography at the popular, the middle-brow, and the academic level. Any of them, I would recommend. The University of Chicago Press has also produced a whole range of books following certain themes and it's there that you would go if you wanted slightly off-beat things such as a detailed discussion of the history of urban mapping, or art and cartography. They also publish Norman Thrower's *Maps & Civilisation* (£20), essentially a rewriting of his *Maps and Men*, first published in 1972. This is a traditional history which acknowledges the new mentality aspects of cartography, and is possibly the best in-print bet for

general use.

"One journal you absolutely have to get, if you want to carry forward your interest, is *Imago Mundi*. It comes out every year, costs £30, and is worth every penny."

"If you just love maps, there's also *Mercator's World*, which is a beginner's journal. It doesn't set out to be academic, it has useful articles and columns, and it is good at popularising academic studies, which I'm all for."

*British Library Bookshop: 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB (0171-412 7000).*

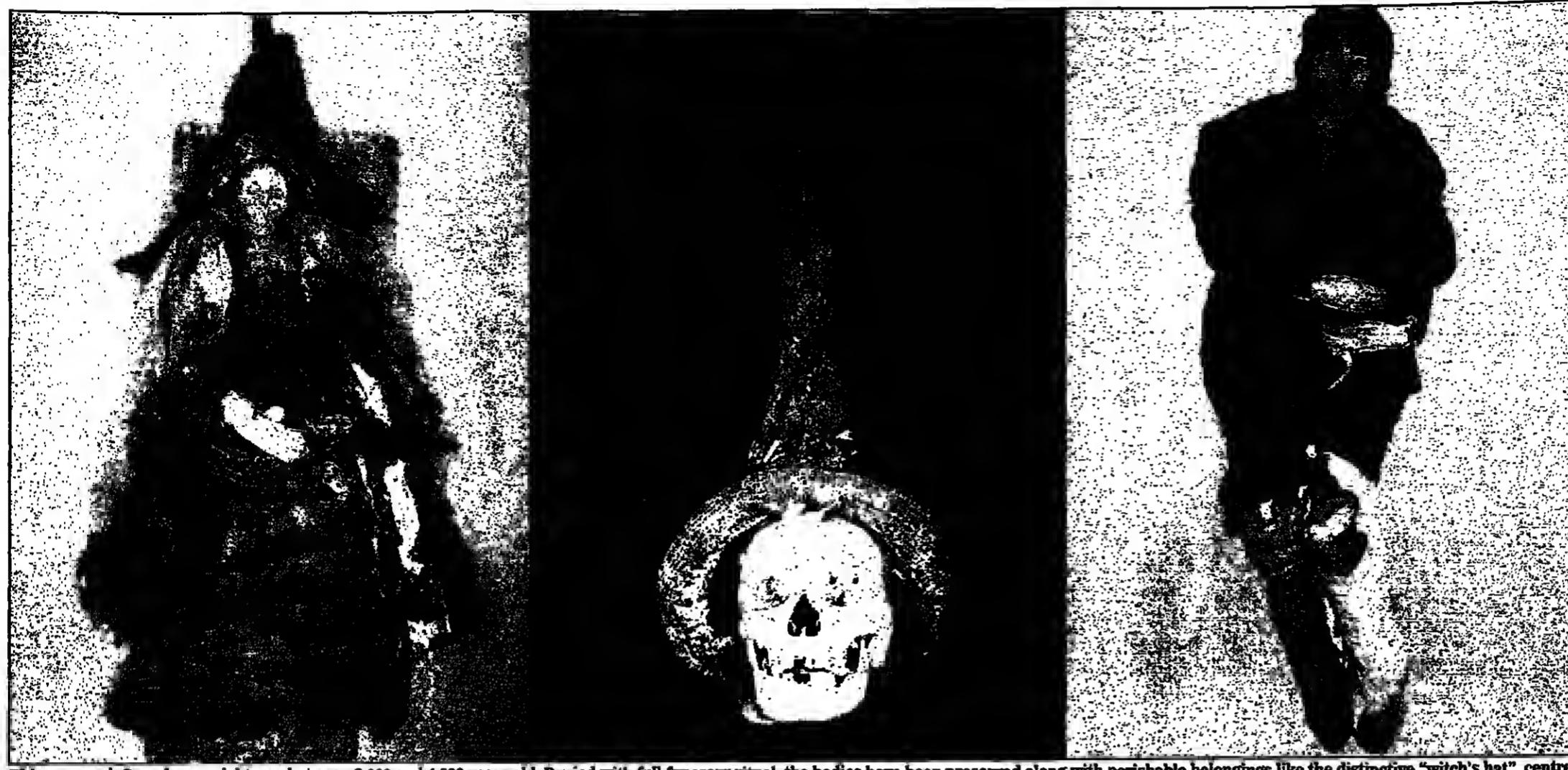
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*Mercator's World, e-mail:*



Did Europeans migrate to China 4,000 years ago? The Tarim Basin mummies suggest they did. By Steve Connor

# Dug from the sands of time



This woman, left, and man, right, are between 2,000 and 4,000 years old. Buried with full funerary ritual, the bodies have been preserved along with perishable belongings like the distinctive "witch's hat", centre

THE MYSTERY of the Tarim Basin mummies is as enigmatic as the stares frozen on their faces. For up to 4,000 years these perfectly preserved corpses have lain in the ground of a remote desert region of northwestern China. Archaeologists were puzzled and amazed when the mummies first emerged for public view a few years ago. They looked European, with their narrow faces and long noses, but nobody had imagined that a "lost tribe" of white people had penetrated so deeply into ancient China.

The mummified faces, so clearly different from the Mongoloid features of the East, challenged the traditional view that Chinese culture had developed in isolation. Could these people who had travelled along the route of the Silk Road nearly 2,000 years before it had officially opened in 130 BC really have been Europeans? According to the latest genetic analysis of the mummies it appears they are indeed of European descent. If the preliminary results are correct, historians may have to revise their views on the earliest links between China and the West.

The Taklamakan desert (which literally means "go in and you won't come out") of the Tarim Basin provided the perfect conditions for natural mummification. Apart from in

the immediate vicinity of the region's lush oases, the arid environment and salty ground suspend bacterial decomposition. Even clothes and wooden tools are perfectly preserved, giving a unique insight into a society that would otherwise have been lost in the sands of time.

Chinese archaeologists have so far excavated more than 100 mummies - desiccated corpses, strictly speaking - from the Tarim Basin, in the Xinjiang province of modern China. The bodies were buried either individually or in pairs, sometimes in decorated coffins or hollowed-out logs. The dead graves are often covered with wooden beams and reeds which give some indication of the elaborate funeral rites that must have taken place.

Their clothing has also survived, often with their vivid colours in tact. The mummies are dressed in robes, trousers, boots, stockings, coats and hats. One of the head garments, a two-foot high conical structure made of felt, is reminiscent of the "witch's hat" of European culture and the tall headdresses of Saka nomads of southern Iran.

The culture of the mummy people was relatively sophisticated. Artefacts found in the graves of the Tarim Basin mummies suggest that most of them were agriculturalists,

rather than simply nomadic herdsmen or hunter-gathering communities. They appear to have lived in permanent housing, they used spindle whorls, shells, bone combs, wooden vessels and plates, and made their own pottery and textiles.

"This is every anthropologist's dream," says Dr Charlotte Roberts, a lecturer in archaeology at Bradford University, who has studied the find. "But unlike other preserved ancient bodies, the Xinjiang material has not been the subject of analysis by scientists to the same extent."

An Italian geneticist, Paolo Francalacci of the Anthropology Institute at the University of Sassari, nevertheless managed to extract 25 tissue

samples from 11 mummies found in eastern Xinjiang. The preliminary results, from analysis of five samples from two individuals, show that the DNA sequences match sequences of typically European origin.

Further analysis to be published shortly has confirmed that Francalacci has found that the mummies to be more closely related to modern continental Europeans than present-day Chinese. Three years ago Dr Francalacci was reticent about putting too much emphasis on his findings. "The preliminary results are in agreement with a possible European origin... but further research is still needed," he said. But this week his doubts have been dis-

peled: "We have confirmed they are white Europeans."

A study by Chinese anthropologists, who measured the dimensions of skulls, has also concluded that the inhabitants of the Tarim Basin from 1800 BC to the last few centuries BC were predominantly Caucasian. "What is most surprising is that their appearance is recognisably European, which has challenged the theory that China's advanced civilisation developed largely in isolation," Dr Roberts says. "What is more, the presence of these people at that time in China has become a politically sensitive issue with the indigenous people of Xinjiang today wanting autonomy from the rest of China. The presence of these mummies and other archaeological and historical information support the suggestion that they do indeed possess a different cultural heritage."

There is other evidence to support a European origin of the Tarim Basin mummies. Dr Roberts cites the famous wall paintings of the Kizil caves in the mountains of the Xinjiang. These date from the 2nd century AD - much later than the mummies - but the faces depicted could clearly be their descendants. The Kizil cave paintings have faces with blue and green eyes, narrow faces and long noses, and red and blonde hair and beards.

It is tempting to speculate that the existence of these European-like mummies confirms the presence of a trade route which predates the famous 4,000-mile Silk Road. A strand of silk found in the hair of a 3,000-year-old Egyptian mummy who lived in Thebes in the 21st dynasty appears to confirm that silk - a uniquely Eastern product - was being traded long before the Silk Road opened.

Vincent Pigott, an archaeologist

at the University of Pennsylvania, said that the mummies of the Tarim Basin lend support to the idea that western technology flowed east as eastern produce moved west. "Without this discovery we would have been very much in the dark about the potential for the diffusion of knowledge," Professor Pigott said. "Chinese scholars are becoming more open to the idea that knowledge may have been brought to the East along the route of the Silk Road."

Although genetic material is helping to shed light on the Tarim Basin mummies, it is unlikely to answer perhaps the most intriguing conundrum of all: why did they disappear after surviving for so many centuries in such an inhospitable region of the world?



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## The synthetic solution to a natural enemy

### THE TRUTH ABOUT... ANTIVIRAL DRUGS



HIV virus particles surround an infected cell. SPL  
enemy. Viruses are relatively simple creatures. They possess genetic information either in the form of DNA or its close cousin RNA, and they wrap this in a protective outer coating made of protein.

In order to infect a cell they have to first attach themselves to its cell membrane and then inject their genetic material into the inner cellular cytoplasm. In the case of an RNA virus, it also needs an enzyme

to convert its genetic code to DNA, and uses another enzyme to construct its protein coat.

Scientists who devise ways of attacking viruses try to find the weak links in the chain of infection, replication, viral synthesis and re-infection. Blocking a virus's ability to attach itself to a cell would be the first and best line of attack. Preventing any of the other stages poses greater difficulties because the antiviral drug has to get inside the infected cell to have an effect.

HIV, the AIDS virus, makes the infected cell produce two enzymes. One is called reverse transcriptase, which converts the virus's RNA to a DNA copy. The other is a protease enzyme, which builds up its outer protein coat.

There are three broad classes of antiviral drugs against HIV. The first is AZT which interferes with the synthesis of the viral code by providing dummy building blocks.

Reverse transcriptase inhibitors attack the enzyme needed to make DNA from a template of RNA and protease inhibitors block the process of making viral protein. One or other should in theory prevent HIV from replicating.

The reality, as always, is a little more complicated as HIV has proven to possess an ability to mutate into drug-resistant forms. This is one thing viruses and bacteria do share.

STEVE CONNOR

### TECHNOQUEST

**Q** How do we know what is inside the Earth? It is not possible to go down far enough to reach the really interesting bits of the underworld because it gets too hot. To understand the centre of the Earth, the core, we have to use shock waves, like those that travel through the Earth after earthquakes. These show the different densities of the rocks below which gives us a clue to what they are.

**Q** How do we get rid of our rubbish?

Currently about 95 per cent of Britain's waste is disposed of in landfill sites, the rest is incinerated. The government is setting a target of recycling 20 per cent of domestic waste by the year 2000. However, scientists have discovered that in the United States' landfills even the normally biodegradable material like paper does not really break down. The lack of oxygen has a mummifying effect so that even 20-year-old hot dogs have been found intact.

**Q** What are fractals?

In mathematics, fractals are a class of complex geometric shapes. They are distinct from the simple figures of classical - or Euclidean - geometry (the square, circle, sphere, and so forth), being capable of describing the many irregularly-shaped objects (such as snowflakes) or spatially non-uniform phenomena in nature that cannot be accommodated by the components of Euclidean geometry. The term, from the Latin word *fractus* ("fragmented," or "broken"), was coined by the Polish-born mathematician Benoit B Mandelbrot. Since its introduction in 1975, the concept has given rise to a system of geometry that has had a significant impact on mathematics, physical chemistry, physiology, and fluid mechanics.

**Q** What causes car sickness?

Car motion is noticed by a part of your body called the inner ear. In your inner ear are three curved tubes called semi-circular canals. If you are reading a book or looking at the inside of the car your eyes tell your brain that you are not moving but the little tubes in your ear (the semi-circular canals) tell your brain that you are moving. This confuses the brain and makes you feel sick. If you look out of the window of the car and watch things moving past you will make your eyes realise that you are moving and you won't feel so ill.

Questions for this column may be submitted via e-mail to [sci.net@campus.bt.com](mailto:sci.net@campus.bt.com). You can also visit the [Scientific Quest World Wide Web site at: http://www.scientific-quest.org.uk](http://www.scientific-quest.org.uk). Questions and answers provided by [ScienceLine's Dial-A-Scientist on 0345 600444](http://www.ScienceLine.com)

# Running out of puff

The cast are valiant. The film was a gem. But Lloyd Webber's new show is nothing if not flatulent. By David Benedict

LONG BEFORE news percolated through that Meatloaf songwriter and producer Jim Steinman was to be Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest lyricist, eyebrows were being raised. A musical of Mary Hayley Bell's novel and Bryan Forbes' exquisite film *Whistle Down the Wind* in which children mistake an escaped convict for Jesus? Could it be done? In fact, it already had. Due to his benevolent involvement with the National Youth Music Theatre, Lloyd Webber had seen Richard Taylor's successful musical version of the same material. Not long afterwards, his own production was set in motion.

The most radical change is the switch of location. Unusually, Lloyd Webber premiered it in Washington. It flopped, although there it may have seemed right that the tale of innocent Yorkshire lads and lasses had been translated to a group of hard-workin', God-fearin' folk in a small Louisiana town in 1959. It certainly allows the religious theme to come across strongly, but in London the change begs more questions than it answers, particularly when the sense of period is as synthetic as the Fifties-style Levi's commercials.

The genius of the film was its touching unforced simplicity. The young Hayley Mills played the central character, Swallow, who befriended murderous runaway Alan Bates in a barn one chilly Christmas. In this post-Washington rewrite, the excellent Lottie Mayor slips away into the barn for some peace. Suddenly she's confronted by a wounded man with long dark hair who's so shocked, he utters the fateful words, "Jesus Christ" and Swallow's fantasies are set in motion. The story then proceeds to be a test of the children's faith as they cleave to their belief in the face of a hard adult world.

The major problem is the show's failure of tone. It cannot decide what it is or who it's aimed at. Per-

haps the idea was to go for every possible sector of the audience. One minute it sounds like a reworking of Steinman's "Total Eclipse of the Heart", the next it's a jaunty number for the hard-working bunch of scrawny kids more akin to *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, his earliest score, written for schoolchildren. Then you get the operatic motifs - the threat of danger is represented with wailing bass guitar - and he even writes fierce crowd numbers when they're bloodthirstily searching for the devil at loose in their society. Sad to say, *Peter Grimes* it ain't.

It could be argued that some of the tunes are hummable. If so, it's because not only does he reprise songs whenever possible, most of the melodies themselves consist of the same phrases being shamelessly repeated. Then there's the borrowing. "If Only" has more than a hint of "Any Dream Will Do", from *Joseph* mixed up with the hymn "How Great Thou Art". Ultimately, all you really hear is the sound of a score crashing between any number of stools.

It's good to see Lloyd Webber moving forward, in the sense that he has abandoned the "through-sung" approach which banishes dialogue, but writing scenes is not his strength. He keeps setting up what needs to happen, as in the attempt to portray Swallow's burgeoning sexuality, but the script and the characterisation are so perfunctory that there's no real drama. Nothing is allowed to grow, it's just baldly stated, as if each scene had a caption: "The Children Are Sad" - "The Mob Is Angry". Everyone sings fit to bust, but what you end up with is stacks of unearned emotion. Even more problematically, the scale of the bombastic rock idiom blows the emotions out of all proportion to the fragile tale.

Hydraulics were used to lift Sun-

set Boulevard on to a different plane and this show's designer, Peter J Davison, tries to pull the same trick, but with the scenes switching endlessly between the barn and the outside world, the set goes up and down like a yo-yo, much to the delight of the partisan first night crowd, at least some of whom were presumably applauding their investment.

Gale Edwards used lighting very dramatically when she directed *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She overdoes it on her, but like the rest of her over-manipulative production the result is chillingly efficient. Your heart is supposed to be softened when someone gets bathed in a heavenly light from above; she also splashes colours across the cloudscape background to tell you

what to feel: a sunset glow for "niceness", hard cold white for "nastiness" and so on. Most of the time it's fuschia for "big emotional finish".

The cast - who look like they've stepped out of a Norman Rockwell painting - pull out all the stops, especially Marcus Lovett as the unnamed convict. They even manage to sing while handling snakes.

Since you ask, they're wrestling with the devil at a revivalist meeting. See what I mean about shifts in tone? Unfortunately, even their valiant efforts can't save a show which tries in vain to suit everyone.

*Aldwych Theatre, London WC2 10171-416 6003*. A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

The children and The Man huddle together in Lloyd Webber's overblown new production

**Alice through the looking glass - darkly**

*Alice Thompson used to play keyboards in an indie band. Now she's enjoying just as much success, as part of the new wave of Scots novelists. By Marianne Brace*



Pop fictionist Philip Meech

"And then he said, very excitedly: 'You were in The Woodentops'."

Thompson laughs. But there cannot be many authors who have reached No 1 in the independent charts and won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for a debut novel. Switching from one kind of keyboard to another was not really so surprising. Thompson always wanted to be a writer, and three years of Woodentopping was just something she did along the way. Her second novel, *Pandora's Box*, is published this week.

Thompson is one of a new breed of energetic young literary Scots including AL Kennedy, Alan Warner, Ali Smith and Janice Galloway.

"There's a kind of intensity to Scottish writing, a love of language and taking risks," suggests Thompson, as we muse over why Scotland is producing such a clutch of good writers.

While so many huddling women writers adopt a confessional mode, 36-year-old Alice looks through a

glass darkly. She has no desire to re-gurgitate her life. Metaphors, conceits and illusion are more her line. "I'm interested in creating strange, unfamiliar worlds," she says. Her writing is dream-like. Nothing is as it seems. The central image in *Justine* is a maze; in *Pandora's Box* it is glass, and has the quality of being both transparent and opaque.

In her wine-coloured velvet jacket and jeans, and with her girlish voice, Thompson seems easier to imagine pouring over some ancient text rather than strutting her stuff on *The Old Grey Whistle Test*. She was raised in Edinburgh in a family of academics, and at 18 went to Oxford University to read English.

Gravitating to London, Thompson hoped to land a job in publishing. But

because she played classical piano ("no use whatever") a friend invited

her to join The Woodentops as keyboard player, heckling vocalist and spokesperson.

"I really just did it for the fun. I was living in a squat in Brixton and was pretty poor, and thought it would be a great way to earn money and have free nights out." Glamorous it was not. "We started playing in pubs. I remember doing a miners' benefit where we raised just enough money to buy a Mars bar," Thompson laughs. "Then John Peel asked us to do a session on radio and we took off. Rough Trade signed us up, and within a couple of months I was earning a salary."

The Woodentops' album *Giant* reached Number One in the independent charts, as did their single "Good Thing". "We were almost mega-famous," says Thompson, laughing. "We were really mobbed

and I can't remember once being offered biscuits or tea, but never drugs."

Leaving the band ("it all got a bit intense"), Thompson embarked on a PhD on Henry James and a stint as Will Self's girlfriend. But she had a yen for Scotland, and so applied for the job as writer in residence in the Shetlands. "That was fun," she says. "It was a bit like being a district nurse."

*Justine* was written during that period. Inspired by de Sade's writings, it uses Justin and Juliette as beautiful twins on whom the opium-dazed narrator fixates. "It's a novel about obsession," explains Thompson. The idea of confection, confusion and secrecy were heightened when Canongate, the original publishers, sold the book with uncut pages. Readers had to slice their way

into the novel, turning reading - as one reviewer pointed out - into a performance art.

Despite being in competition with books by Julian Barnes, Barry Unsworth and Iain Banks, *Justine* shared the James Tait Black Memorial prize with a novel by Graham Swift. Since then, it has become a set text at both Edinburgh and Glasgow universities.

With *Pandora's Box*, Thompson wanted to write a fairy story. "Fairy tales deal in absolutes and you can't really get more gruesome than Hans Christian Andersen - *The Little Mermaid*, walking on shards of ice." *Pandora's Box* is not an easy read. It begins with Noah, a reconstruction surgeon, discovering a burning body that has dropped from the sky outside his house. It's a woman (or is it?) whom he brings

back to life, marries and calls "Pandora". But one day this strange, mute creature is murdered and her body disappears. Noah's quest is to discover who has killed his wife.

"The book is about curiosity and I want the experience of reading *Pandora's Box* to be like a dream," says Thompson. "Although dreams are difficult to make sense of, when you're in them you take them for what they are." The novel is thick with cryptic clues and reworks the familiar theme of innocence and knowledge.

At one point Noah notices "how, since Pandora's death, it was as if everything he saw, no matter how many times, was for the first time". This is typical of Thompson's work. "I'm interested in writing that's transformative," she says, "and making people see themselves in a new way."

*Pandora's Box*, by Alice Thompson. Is published by Little Brown, price £12.99

## Goodbye cat gut, hello polystyrene

### CLASSICAL

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LONDON



The Brodsky Quartet

Laurie Lewis

THERE CAN rarely, if ever, have been two concerts on consecutive nights in London featuring string quartets that were so different from one another and from all others of their kind. Admittedly, both the Brodsky Quartet in their collaboration with the Crouch End Festival Chorus at the Barbican and the Soweto Quartet at the Festival Hall were amplified, and supported by massive amounts of percussion, both groups sang and shouted while they played (the Soweto musicians danced as well, though). Otherwise these events inhabited different worlds.

Sunday's concert was an example of really imaginative programming - Mozart's *Requiem* preceded by two challenging 20th-century works,

one of them, Paul Patterson's *Hells Angels*, a CEFC commission and world premiere. The Brodsky's gave a virtuosic performance of George Crumb's *Black Angels*, a modern classic that employs an extraordinary repertoire of sounds and textures to create a genuinely dramatic and atmospheric world of its own.

Even more remarkable

sounds, and some wonderful lighting, dancing traditional numbers - bossanova rhythms and what sounded like Vivaldi thrown in along the way.

Mahlasela's singing was really something - soulful vocals soaring from one octave to another - and the Quartet played and moved as one with an incredible rhythmic infectiousness. Arising from the unlikely but musically fertile conditions of Soweto, these musicians are living proof of the power of music to transcend political and social barriers and affirm life.

The result was pure joy. A packed Festival Hall loved every minute of it all, and the audience roared their approval at the end.

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ARTS/11

### WHAT THE CRITICS SAID

So much piffle in the wind ... The writers have tried to give the show an emotional logic. In fact, they have destroyed its whimsical charm ... Everything about the show seems overblown ... a musical of quite breathtaking pointlessness.

Michael Billington  
The Guardian

One of the most heartfelt shows Lloyd Webber has written. It is blessed with an outstanding, instantly memorable score that ranges from full-on rock 'n' roll to wistful ballads and emotive gospel ... The script is a bit of a mess, with scrappy little scenes and often incoherent motivation and character development. Yet I warm to a commercial musical with the courage to take Christian faith, morality, racism and the problem of suffering as its subject matter.

Charles Spencer  
Daily Telegraph

Andrew Lloyd Webber has been triumphantly tuned into Middle England for two decades. But how dated, how *déjà vu* he now sounds. His latest musical is so ludicrous in outline, so unmemorable in song that his admirers may tune out and turn on to something more contemporary ... As a musical about fanaticism and cruelty, *Whistle Down The Wind* just echoes with anaemic boisterousness.

Nicholas de Jongh  
Evening Standard

The grime quotient could sometimes be higher and the cute-urchin factor lower. But Gale Edwards' crisp, punchy staging answers many of those cavils and leaves a substantially rejigged musical looking well worth a place in the West End, or, for that matter, Broadway. In fact, my principal complaint is that I can't stop the title song whistling and winding its preposterously pretty way round my earbuds.

Benedict Nightingale  
Times

Lord Andrew has tapped into a new narrative opportunity of epic anguish ... Is it a hit? Who cares? It's very, very good.

Michael Coveney  
Daily Mail

# Very Gaudi, very Brian Sewell

**Taxi drivers know where to find the art critic's house. That's because it boasts sculpture on the outside as well as within. By Andrew Barrow**

**F**or the past nine years I have had the rare good fortune to live next door to the art critic Brian Sewell. He is not only one of the most interesting and noteworthy men in London, he also lives in one of the most interesting and eye-catching houses in Kensington. Alas, the house is now on the market, and largely for the sake of his rambunctious dogs, Mr Sewell is moving to a leafier, more spacious part of the capital.

Originally a fairly ordinary end-of-terrace four-storey brick Victorian mansion built in 1850, the house has been tampered with by several of its occupants. A 45-foot-long double studio occupies the entire original garden, and there are other felicities elsewhere, not least the glorious unmodernised kitchen and pantry in the basement. But by far the most striking and fanciful decorations are on the street side of the house, for all the world to see and delight in, a joy to behold, making the house memorable to passers-by and instantly recognisable to taxi-drivers and visitors alike.

"What are those things?" people wonder, stopping and staring at the five somewhat higgidy-piggidy artworks which protrude at various angles from the stucco. The Lion and Unicorn are there, so is George and the Dragon but, as Sewell admits, the other symbols are "fairly meaningless", a Spanish artist's loosely medieval interpretation of the glories of Coronation Year in 1953.

The house has long been connected with the arts. One of its earliest occupants was the engraver Frederic Stacpoole ARA, who lived to the age of 94. Then there was a Dutch painter called Antoon van Weie. "I've got one of his portraits," blushes Sewell. "It's terrible, terrible. A picture of a grinning boy. I bought it for about £70. You can have it when I leave, if you like."

So far, so bad, but this attention-seeking house - what other central London home shouts out at passers-by "Look at me! Look at me!" - was utterly transformed, from the outside anyway, in 1929, when its new owner, the Irish mining engineer turned art collector Chester Beatty, hired the architect Theo Schaefer to turn this rather narrow, demure brick house into an interesting new-looking pseudo Charles Rennie Mackintosh building. Mackintosh had only died the previous year and was still very much the pre-siding genius of the day.

All his trademarks are here -

small paned windows, vertical motifs and lots and lots of white - but according to the imaginative Sewell, the building looks more like "an up-ended South African farm house".

The roof-level gable, he insists, is "typically South African".

Chester Beatty lived here till

1951, and his most famous painting,

the record-breaking Van Gogh Sun

Flowers, according to Sewell, hung

above the mantelpiece in the front

room. Beatty also tinkered about with the inside, installing antique baroque newel posts to the staircase and other baroque details.

Good for him - but it wasn't until

1953 that the house's new owner,

Arpad Elfer, a Hungarian photog-

rapher and advertising man with an

interest in what would now be de-

scribed as soft pornography, put the

finishing touches to the building by

hiring the Catalan artist Juan Rebull

to add the five fancy, though non-

salacious sculptured panels to the

front of the house. "It did rather cry

out for something, didn't it?" re-

marks Brian Sewell as he pores over

the original architects' drawings of

1929. Rebull spent most of his work-

ing life working on Gaudi's Sagrada

Familia church in Barcelona, but had

a mistress in London. What a shame

that this Kensington house is the

only building in London to bear his

most distinctive marks.

Incidentally, Mr Rebull's patron

Mr Elfer seems to have been equally

interested in real-life activities at

the back of the house. On the 40-foot

terrace, he apparently held full-

scale orgies. From their next-door

bedroom windows the young daughter

of the National Trust chief

Robin Fedden watched with fasci-

nation "as events unfolded".

This house has been Brian

Sewell's home since 1972, during

which time he has risen from being a

fairly unknown artist and picture

restorer to become England's most

controversial art critic. Curiously

and mercifully, he seems to be the

only occupant of the house to make

no alterations to it. Indeed his only

addition to the building is the ele-

gant, minority Palladian dog kennel

on the front doorstep. Actually, says

Sewell, it's a cat box, built by a car-

enter 20 years ago, to house an un-

friendly cat who refused to come

indoors. One only hopes that this charming adornment will stay with the house, if only as a memento of my remarkable and most friendly, and neighbourly, neighbour.

Brian Sewell's house is for sale at

Harpers, 53 Abingdon Road, London

W8 (0171 938 2311); Andrew Bar-

row's novel 'The Man in the Moon'

is published by Picador (£6.99)

Brian Sewell's Kensington house boasts a pseudo Charles Rennie Mackintosh facade, embellished with sculptures by Juan Rebull

Philip Meech

**THE MILLENNIUM COLLECTION**

NO 3: 'JACK' LIGHT-CUM-STOOL DESIGNED BY TOM DIXON



have sourced the Philippines to make it cheaper," he says.

To make "Jack" he pioneered a way of mixing dyes into the polyethylene to get an even colour that lights up if there is a socket nearby. He also uses phosphorescent dyes which glow in the dark.

Anyone who thinks "Jack" is simply a traffic bollard thingie with big protuberances will be astonished to learn it is a regular icosahedron, a solid, with 20 plane faces. "That's the reason it appeals so universally," Dixon explains. "Celtic, Islamic, Hindu, the maths are the same."

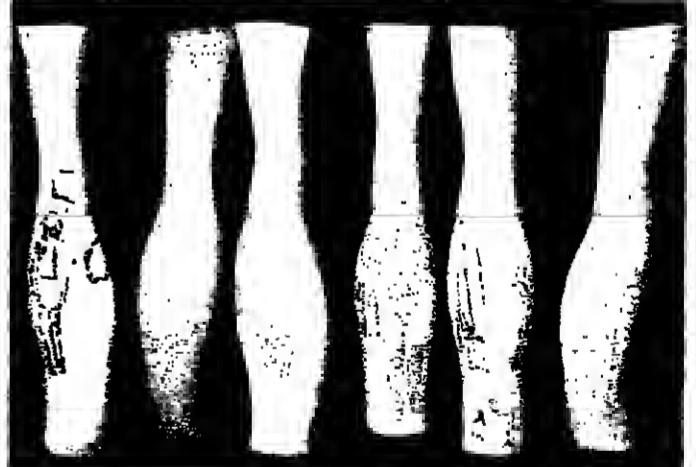
He's amused that it means so many different things to so many people. "So Sixties" people say. Or "Sexy". The Japanese call it a tetrapod, which is a four-footed creature with a spine, and the French think its outline is like their sea defences set in concrete along the coastline.

There is a smaller version which looks only as a light and which looks like takeaway polystyrene cups spliced together; it is known technically as a stellation of a cube.

**NONIE NIESEWAND**

"Jack" is available for £160 in red, blue, lilac, yellow, white, orange and black by mail order from Eurolounge. 0171 792 5177.

## TOMORROW'S WORLD



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## Princess Di and the spudjacket sofa

John Self, a seahorse porn freak and ad director returns from his New York trip to London.

I THINK of my West London flat as a kind of playboy pad. This has an effect on my flat, which remains a gaff, a lair, a lean-to - a sock. It smells of bath, of bachelordom: even I can nose it... Like an ad-

olescent, throbbing, gaping, my poor flat pines for a female presence. And so it is. My spirit is broken, and so is mine. My pad has tumbled cream carpets, a rhino-and-pylon sofa and an oval bed with black satin counterpane.

None of this is mine. The voile walls are not mine. I hire everything... I've lived here for ten years now and nothing

## DESIGN LINES

**The Pardoners Table, Confessions of a Baillif, The Diamond as Big as the Ritz.** I stared at my space-age sound system. Many years ago I outgrew rock music, and have failed to grow into any other kind since.

On the quartz coffee-table serving the spudjacket sofa a deck of unopened mail is carelessly fanned.

While the champagne cooled in my small but powerful refrigerator... I activated the television. With a premonitory crackle the Prince of Wales surged onto the hired screen. Hi, Prince, I said to myself, when did you get back?... He's pulled a little darling called Lady Diana. She doesn't look as though she'll give him any trouble...



Extract from Money by Martin Amis (Penguin, £5.99)

55 من الامان



# A little folly in paradise

**Barbara Neil**  
braved herds  
of inquisitive  
cows and swarms  
of bees to  
change a ruined  
temple into a  
writer's den

**T**his place where I work has always been called The Temple, when it is no more than a folly, a gazebo, 10ft deep, 15 wide. But "The Temple" is written under the old photographs, from the days when it was approached by a gravel path 250ft long – a path bordered by stone urns and iris beds and banked by rhododendron, azalea, all of it tended by 14 gardeners. And, once upon a time, supported on the curved back wall of The Temple – it is possible to glimpse it in those old photographs – there was a marble frieze in which chubby-bottomed cherubs frolicked. But that has gone, leaving only three rusting iron hooks. No one remembers what it was, or when, or why, it disappeared. The gravel path is gone too, and the irises, and the urns, not to mention the 14 gardeners. The rhododendron and azalea still flourish – more than flourish, having witnessed the demise of formality, they are intent on becoming mountains.

A 10-minute walk from the house, and easy to miss since it is approached through a natural tunnel in that massive rhododendron, The Temple now sits in an orchard enclosed by a fence, over which cows in the field beyond stretch their necks rummaging on the end and the presence of me and my dogs. Even inside the orchard this delicate building is still not immediately in sight, but tucked far down on the right, behind the apple trees. I originally came here one summer, but only when the weather was right, to work in a nonchalant sort of way on my second book *Someone Wonderful*. It was open to the elements on three sides, with roots and bracken erupting through the flagstones. The six oak pillars were rotting and the roof was falling in. The sparseness and dilapidation suited me, a reflection of my state of mind. There was nothing there to challenge me, no place for other books or those maddening talismans writers are apt to collect. Everything had to be carried there and back with each trip. So it was my head, a pen and a pad.

I worked on through the autumn, then the winter. Really bad weather became the perfect excuse to slack. Since, with the passing of the spring and the following summer, I realised there was nowhere else I



Writer's retreat: Barbara Neil has written four novels in her grand "gazebo" which is set amongst mountainous rhododendrons and azaleas

John Lawrence

wanted to work, and because simply to be here feels somehow heartening in every way, it was obvious something had to be done. Reluctantly, at first, because my plan seemed almost to be a violation, I had the sides of The Temple glassed and sliding doors set into the front. Two electric points were installed, one for a heater, one for a laptop, the beginning of my slow farewell to longhand. I work at an old pine table, its surface chopped and grooved, and sit on a (come to think of it) rather nasty and certainly not very comfortable stool. But the table is an awkward height and the stool swivels, so with little effort I can match them. In any case, table and stool have served for four novels.

On the rare occasions I show visitors this place, they almost always remark on how inspirational it must be. It is true the view is lovely, but the idea of looking up, finger to cheek as it were, and thinking "What now? Oh what a lovely view! I know what", and off I go again, is not what the writing process is like. If the ideas flow then concentration is such that I might as well be facing a wall, and very often find myself so, unable to quite remember how I came to be that way, like waking up the wrong end of the bed. If they do not flow then I am as likely to curse the view, or at least blame it for distraction.

Yet the surroundings have imposed themselves, certainly twice, and always impressively. Five or six years ago I was here but mentally removed when some eyelet in my subconscious began to blink at the notion of something near, some

thing not human. I carried on without lifting my eyes. If I acknowledged anything it was probably with some vague and pretentious mental salute like "Ah, good morning, Muse". Eventually the dimmest interest was awoken in me, caused by a minute, indefinable disturbance. I

looked up to find a cow had eased her front half through the doors and was perusing my papers, her nose not six inches from mine. Her sisters were peering in behind her.

Then there was the time the light altered. Again, unwilling to be distracted, I reached for the lamp switch without looking. I suppose I assumed it was a change in the weather, more rain. There was a noise, too, but one which must have begun so low, and filled the air so gradually and completely, blending so seamlessly with the atmosphere, like the rust of a train at the point when you don't know if it is a train or simply the wind. Then something like a black bead began to ricochet off the glass and around the walls of The Temple, making a terrible, angry noise, which was amplified by the echo. When my eyes adjusted

from the screen and saw it was a bee I was not too bothered. Then I realised the changed light was due to a swarm of bees. Her sisters were

peering in behind her.

Then there was the time the light altered. Again, unwilling to be distracted, I reached for the lamp switch without looking. I suppose I assumed it was a change in the weather, more rain. There was a noise, too, but one which must have begun so low, and filled the air so gradually and completely, blending so seamlessly with the atmosphere, like the rust of a train at the point when you don't know if it is a train or simply the wind. Then something like a black bead began to ricochet off the glass and around the walls of The Temple, making a terrible, angry noise, which was amplified by the echo. When my eyes adjusted

It is still very basic here. There is a dark green canvas curtain for when the sun's too strong and, all right, I confess, I do have a wicked wicker armchair and footstool – but the dogs always reach it before me. I have also found, to my distress, that I can not think clearly if I'm com-

fortable and certainly not if lying down like one of those dolls with eyelids that click shut when tipped the faintest degree of vertical.

The talisman and trinkets, exacerbating though it is, have insinuated themselves after all. That is what comes of being weatherproof. Small gifts to encourage from those I love. And standing on my table are two figures: a two-inch plastic gnome holding a microphone, with "World's Best Mum" etched on the base; and beside him is a carved wooden cherub playing a violin, possibly willing his fat-bottomed chums back where they ought to be, filling that empty space, in a frieze.

Barbara Neil's latest novel, *'A History Of Silence'*, is published by Macmillan (£16.99)

## DESIGN DETAILS

FIONA McCARTHY



Teak steamer chair, £365, from Ocean

AFICIONADOS OF shed life argue that simplicity is the thing: you can create a writer's den out of any old shack. The snag is, of course, that you have to have a shack in the first place. Those who don't and crave something a little more sophisticated than a Dylan Thomas bashed, can turn to Andtega (The Belvedere with ogee arch will set you back a mere £4,415. Tel: 0800 591523) or, for something a little less expensive, Courtyard Designs will build an hexagonal, summerhouse in your garden for £3,464 (Tel: 01886 884640).

And you don't even have to leave your shed to kit it out in an appropriate manner. Mail-order companies will supply you with anything from a tea crate complete with a bushy outdoor Tea Camellia growing in its own terracotta pot, plus a caddy of Assam tea and box of butter biscuits (£30 the lot from The Gluttonous Gardener, tel: 0171 627 0800) to a steamer chair

(£365 from Ocean Home. Shopping: 0870 8484840).

Since writers spend a lot of time stopping writing and making tea instead, a set of 6 blue and white mugs for £11.50 (House, tel: 01258 454884) is a must, along with a collection of 18 bistro glasses for £12.95 (Grand Illusions, tel: 0181 892 2151) for that moment when the sun slips over the yardarm and you can lay down your pen on a classic

Jemming's Folly Butler's Tray (£78 from Pukka Palace, tel: 0345 666 660) and take up a drink instead.

Light up a few citronella garden candles (also from House, tel: 01258 454884) to ward off the midges, wrap up warm in a pure wool throw rug in gingham check (£52 from Melin Tregwynt, tel: 01348 891644) and wait for someone to tell you to stop relaxing and help put the children to bed.



## Novel ideas in shed design

A shack at the end of the garden is nothing new for writers: Bernard Shaw revolved in his; Virginia Woolf smoked roll-ups in hers. Peter Parker visits some famous authorial hide-outs

THE IDEA of retreating to a garden shed, away from the telephone, door-to-door salesmen, evangelists and other distractions of the daily round, has appealed to many writers. Indeed, even before the advent of modern communications, there were poets at the bottom of the garden. A drawing by William Kent depicts Pope in a shell-studded grotto in his garden at Twickenham, London, languidly casting his eye over a manuscript. While, at Olney, Buckinghamshire, in the 1780s, William Cowper, having worked for a while in his greenhouse, constructed a tiny summerhouse in which he wrote his long poem *The Task*. Although Cowper's retreat was so small that he compared it to a sedan chair, he declared: "Never poet had more commodious oratory in which to evoke his muse."

Bernard Shaw's muse was invoked in a revolving study designed to follow the sun. In keeping with the house at Aynhoe Park, Oxfordshire – which even its current owners, the National Trust, describe as "undistinguished, indeed thoroughly unattractive" – Shaw's study was starkly unadorned, resembling a prefabricated outhouse of the sort in which one might store chicken-feed. Within, it was well appointed and even had electricity. Shaw sat at his desk on a wicker chair and had a bunk bed on which to rest.

Less austere than Shaw, Dylan Thomas cheered up the former bicycle shed in which he



Virginia Woolf's study at Monk's House

National Trust / Eric Creighton

wrote by painting it blue. Situated on the cliff path running above his cottage at Laugham, Dyfed, it commanded an inspirational view over the Taf estuary. It was warmed by a coal-burning stove and adorned with photographs of Auden, Lawrence, Hardy and Whitman pinned up alongside "pictures of monkeys and naked women". The floor was invisible beneath a deep litter of discarded letters and manuscripts, tossed from the table at which Thomas wrote *Under Milk Wood*.

Roald Dahl's writing hut, according to his biographer, Jeremy Tregownik, "represented part of an effort not only to recreate his early childhood, but to improve on it". Sur-

rounded by a bizarre array of personal fetishes – his father's paperknife, stones brought back from war service in North Africa, bits of his own bones salvaged from operations – Dahl cocooned himself in a sleeping-bag and allowed the years to roll back. "It's small and tight and dark and the curtains are always drawn and it's a kind of womb," he acknowledged.

It is mainly men who have been seen stamping down the garden path after breakfast to do a day's writing, perhaps because it has always been easier for them than for women to shut themselves away from their families. There are, however, some distinguished exceptions. As the Second World War approached, Vera Brittain

decided to remove her children from London and bought a gamekeeper's cottage in the New Forest. It was here, in a trellis-clad hut in the garden, that she wrote the final draft of *Testament of Friendship*. Her daughter, Shirley Williams, is now building a more substantial study, designed like Shaw's to revolve with the sun, in her Hertfordshire garden.

While Vita Sackville-West retreated to a room in the Elizabethan tower at Sissinghurst, Kent, Virginia Woolf had to make do with a small converted tool-shed at Monk's House, Rodmell, East Sussex. Later on, a larger study was built at the far end of the garden, against the church wall in the shade of some chestnut trees. Here

Woolf would work each morning until a bell summoned her to lunch. When I visited Monk's House, I discovered a devout fan in the garden study who asked if I minded waiting outside until she had "absorbed the atmosphere" – an atmosphere, I imagine, composed chiefly of hand-rolled cigarettes and the wan ghosts of those Woolf had skewered in the diaries she wrote there.

Woolf had servants and no children, her circumstances resembling those of Elizabeth Bishop, who built a studio – "white-washed walls, old brick floor, grey ceiling" – in the extensive grounds of her house in Brazil. Casual visitors were less of a hazard here, but unlike Dylan Thomas, Bishop was concerned that the beauty of her natural surroundings might distract her from the task of writing poetry. The property had a wonderful view out across a valley to mountains beyond, so that its main window looked out on to a blank wall.

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# Sir Norman's fantasy of flight

There is no coming down to earth when you land at Foster's new Hong Kong airport. By Nonie Niesewand



**O**n Sunday at 11.30pm when Kai Tak airport in downtown Hong Kong closes forever, the 350,000 inhabitants of Kowloon will get their first good night's sleep since the airport opened 73 years ago. Overnight, the entire international airline operation will move to Chek Lap Kok on the nearby island of Lantau. So the next time you fly to Hong Kong, there will be no need to take a beta-blocker as the plane noses down between high-rise towers on to a slippery runway that ends in the South China seas.

From the air, Chek Lap Kok stretches its convex coils like a gaintian sea creature sunning itself. The higher your aerial perspective, the more the vaulted roofs of the cavernous terminus halls flatten out. But on the final approach, the terminus profile rhythmically reveals its loops, the way children draw Nessie. Along its spine, diamond markings lie in natural light.

British architect Sir Norman Foster literally moved mountains to build the airport. Six years ago he landed his helicopter on a peak sticking 345ft out of the sea, a place he describes as "the world's loveliest site, crescent sands, big blue-green hills all around". That was before it was blown up and recycled, with 197 million cubic metres of reclaimed materials, as a landmass 2.5 miles long and two miles wide. Where junks and sampans once anchored, 78 planes can now park.

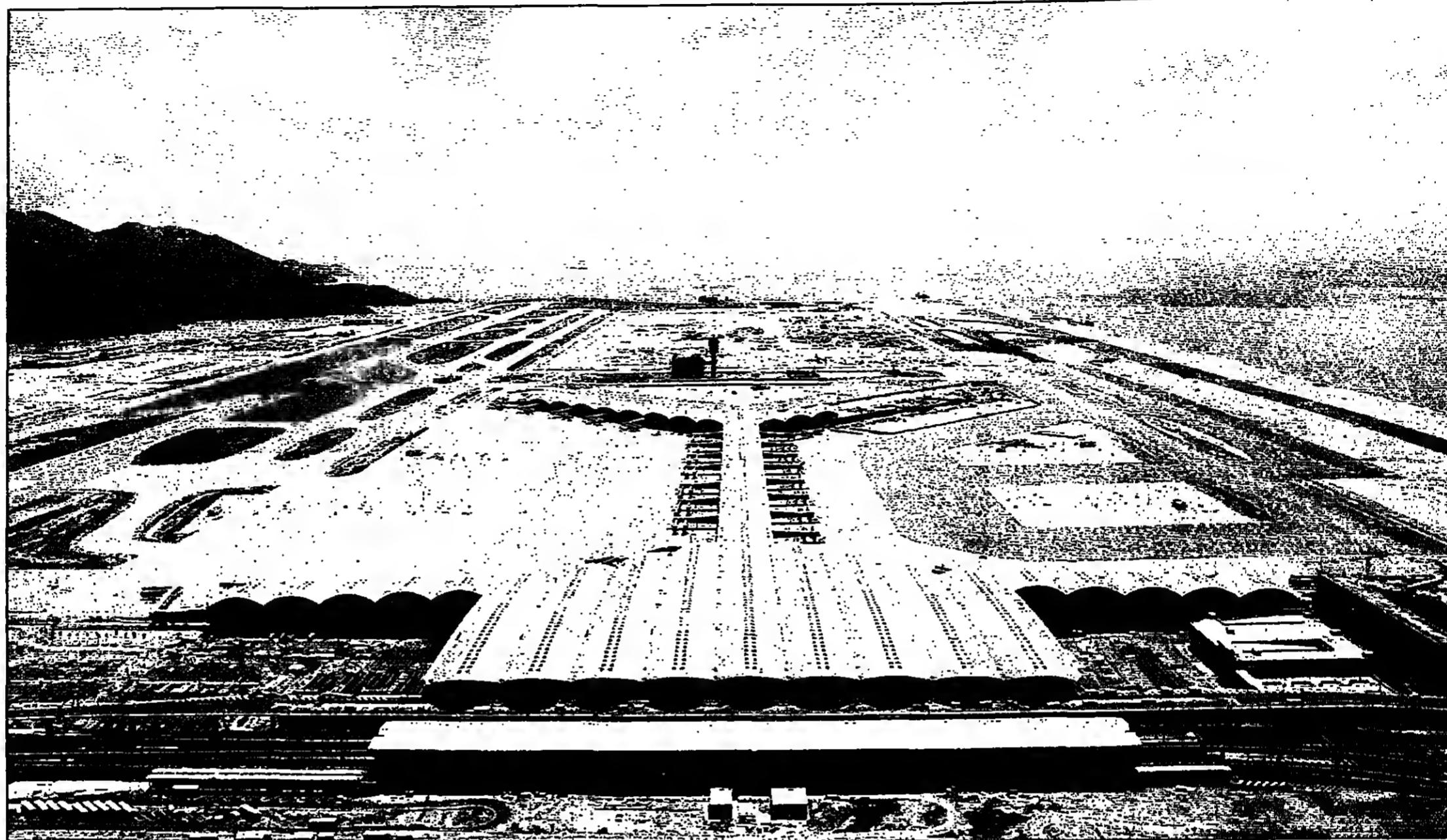
As big as a city - and capable of receiving 35 million passengers a year in a hall bigger than Wembley Stadium - the airport employs 70,000 people, many of whom live in the Tung Chung new town nearby. By 2004 it will be able to handle 87 million passengers a year.

Yet within this heavy-duty building, the marvellous delicacy of touch that Foster has exhibited marshals space so lightly that the whole building seems poised for take-off. Far from dwarfing travellers, the fluidity of the space and the wraparound views are very user-friendly. Even the shopping malls have been corralled in the stubby east and west wings to make shopping easier without spoiling the view. Foster learned this from Stansted, Britain's fourth airport, which had vistas of flying machines until Knickerbox and Big Shop blocked them.

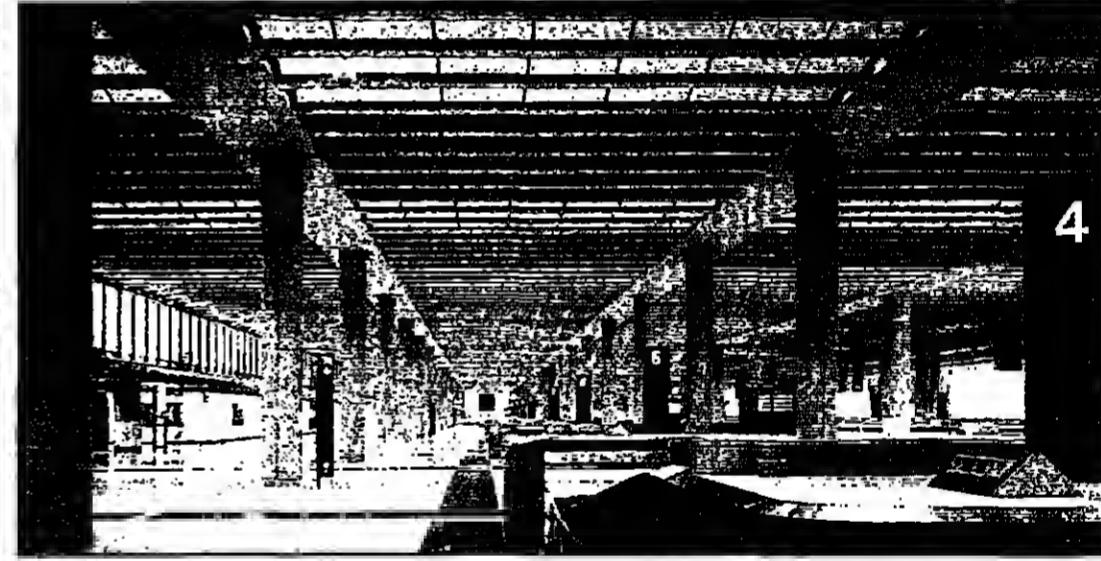
"It's all about experiencing the pleasure of travel, the imagination and excitement of it," says Foster. "You have a relationship with the outside. It couldn't be anywhere else in the world."

Foster has grown in stature from an architect with a small practice of 30 people to a multi-billion pound operation employing 500 architects in London, with offices in Singapore, Berlin and Hong Kong. As his company has expanded, so has his vision. His masterplan includes the infrastructure as important to him as the big building, even if it is master-minded by someone else.

The steel roof swoops up from the taxi drop-off point above the express train station, linked to Hong Kong Central 23 minutes away. It soars over check-in desks, touches down at customs and immigration, rushing on to form the five vaulted arches of the 800m facade that gives access to 38 gates. Glass floors and



From Monday this will be visitors' first view of Hong Kong - landing at Chek Lap Kok, which, as the world's biggest airport, can be seen from space. Designed by Sir Norman Foster, top left, natural light beams into the core of the building from the roof panels running the length of the spine, below left, while, 10 747s can fit inside the concourse, below right. Dennis Gilbert/View



open chambers allow passengers to view goings-on in departures and arrivals. An internal train runs down the 1.8km spine, traversed by concourses like wings. A V-shaped tail fin, designed to take the big-bellied planes of the future, is under construction as part of Phase Two.

There are no partitions or walls to interrupt the view of aeroplanes.

The building's time-scale was punishing. "I remember that the year before the Airport Authority in Hong Kong announced this project," says Foster, "the Terminal Five proposal for Heathrow by Richard Rogers was announced. Hong Kong is built and yet Terminal Five is still the subject of an inquiry with another five months to run."

"I knew that there was never a second chance. On most design projects there's an opportunity to reassess or research aspects after debate. But on this one I never had the luxury to reconsider anything. I re-

ally only had one shot at it." It came in on time and marginally under budget, despite more or less exhausting world resources of fibreglass for moulding the concrete on site.

Norman Foster looks suspiciously like he is taking over the world. He currently has 100 projects under construction. His company has recently completed the reconstruction of the Reichstag (he is also redesigning the German eagle), and is working on the highest towers in the world - in Japan, the Millennium Bridge over the Thames and the 180m bridge in Bilbao, where a new word has entered the Basque language, *Posturito*, to describe his street furniture. "Heroic" is a word he uses a lot about his own architecture. Only

his highly developed social conscience - he believes architects can make a difference to the quality of life - stops him running into *Blowfish*, the megalomaniac in *Bond* movies. Take the Hong Kong and Shang-

hai Bank, which was the turning point in Foster's fortunes in 1979. The grey-girdered, elegantly criss-crossed building catapulted him into world-class architecture. Every

Sunday, thousands of picnickers on their day off congregate in the shade of the piazza, stir frying to woks on braziers. Norman, who dislikes hierarchical spaces, loves this communal enjoyment of his building. By comparison, the Bank of China, I.M. Pei's four glass towers, angled like bamboo nodes to signify growth, is sealed and secretive, always aloof.

Foster's stamina is constantly tested. In the first stages of the bank project nearly 20 years ago, he knew he could not last if it was not better shaped to cope with the travelling.

He had to perform on arrival, without jet lag. So he began cycling and running. At 63, he has just flown from Berlin to Hong Kong for the weekend, and thence to Valencia to open his convention centre. Yet he still

finds time to slip out to David Tang's Shanghai Tang to buy purple silk pyjamas for his wife Elena.

Just as Foster's Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank symbolised the Eighties as a power-dressed symbol of corporate muscle, so his new metropolis at Chek Lap Kok is designed to put a good face on this sovereign state. In its transparency, it represents the hands-off attitude of China towards Hong Kong, an attitude that will be difficult to sustain if economic recession changes it into a potential source of instability. No doubt when President Jiang Zemin opened Chek Lap Kok with John Prescott he was aware of the visionary face that Foster has given China's newest showcase.

But the new front door of Hong Kong is not perfect. The architect's triumph has been overshadowed by a technical error for which no one will accept responsibility. Some of the glass panels - maybe as much as a

third of the five-kilometre glass curtain - show "frosting" at the corners. The Airport Authority admits the fault is purely cosmetic, not a matter of public safety, but that it is "unpleasant and that in a world-class project like this, the contractor may have to replace some of the glass". Looking out of the windows, I did not see any of this "frosting".

Chris Wise, director of the engineering company Ove Arup, who works with Norman but not at Chek Lap Kok, is indignant on Foster's behalf. He feels the building is taking unfair criticism. "A building like an airport is a fantastically complicated bit of architecture and engineering and we ought to be celebrating the fact."

Foster's magnificent airport has fallen victim to a fashion for knocking contemporary architects using cutting-edge technology with glass. Three great British architects of this century, Norman Foster, Richard

Rogers and Nicholas Grimshaw are all under fire at present for their glass specifications. Grimshaw is sending legal warnings to anyone investigating the fact that tarpaulins are strung up at the Eurostar Waterloo terminal to catch any glass which may fall - none has, but five panes have sprung hairline cracks.

Nickel sulphide, a blemish in the glass which grows, is rumoured to be the problem. Grimshaw and Partners are inclined to believe it is the maintenance people walking all over the glass. The discovery of a reindeer's leg on the roof has baffled the investigators. Meanwhile, Richard Rogers has resorted to the law to defend his use of glass at his Bordeaux law courts.

The forthcoming engineering report on the glass curtain at Chek Lap Kok will clear Foster of blame, but one can not help feeling sorry that the issue has clouded his pleasure at a remarkable achievement.

## Coming on in leaps and bounds

The spectacular new Sadler's Wells is going up with spectacular speed. By Louise Levene

A NIGHT out in London's West End can be a very unpleasant experience. Victorian theatres may be pretty but they are airless, have lousy sightlines, no leg room, tiny little bars staffed by bad tempered deaf people, and four lavatories apiece. After an expensive slab of polenta you then fight your way to NCP prior to the inevitable row in the car.

The increasing grottness and expense of the West End is sure to drive Londoners back to their neighbourhood theatres: Hackney Empire, Lyric, Hammersmith and Sadler's Wells, whose new glass-fronted incarnation by REWL (indoor) and Nicholas Hare Architects (outdoor) will open for business this autumn.

This will be the sixth theatre on the Islington site since Dick Sadler first opened his musick-house in 1683. None of the buildings has been particularly distinguished and most were knocked up on the cheap when the old one fell down - in 1764 the theatre was rebuilt in seven weeks for a modest £4,225.

The most recent 1931 building was the brainchild of Lilian Baylis who raised the money by charitable

donation. It was never much of a theatre, the stage was poky, the acoustics were terrible and the foyer was the size of a shoe box. But nobody cared. It was a true people's theatre, made possible by local enthusiasm - and it was cheap. In 1934 you could see Ninette de Valois's fledgling Royal Ballet with Alicia Markova, Robert Helpmann and the young Fonteyn for sixpence plus a twopenny busride from the West End.

The building's many shortcomings were no barrier to its success or its popularity but by the late Eighties the theatre was simply worn out. Public affection was for the idea of Sadler's Wells, not for the building itself so when the National Lottery got going Sadler's Wells was first in line to ask for money for a new theatre. They said yes.

As I walked around the site last



New foyer M Von Sternberg

week the shell of the new building was swarming with carpenters and electricians busy with the final phase. The drone of drills and generators came a poor second to the strong, confident tones of Ian Albery, whose chosen specialist subject is "Sadler's Wells, its glorious past and illustrious future". Albery took over as chief executive in 1994. Within months he was planning to knock the whole thing down and start again. By October this year the new £42m theatre will be open for business.

Albery's proudest boast is the size of the stage itself. When the last theatre was built, Lilian Baylis's commendable thrift had led her to copy the cramped dimensions of the Old Vic so that existing scenery could simply be moved wholesale across Waterloo Bridge by horse and cart. This meant that the front of the stage was only a measly thirty feet

wide. At 15 metres square the new stage will be larger than the one at Covent Garden.

It's a huge space, currently adorned with dangling coils of electric cable that hang about like wings. The height of the proscenium opening (an unusually generous 10 metres) was decided after discussions with the set designer Ralph Koltai. The vastness of the stage's "fourth wall" opens out the space, minimising the barrier between stage and auditorium, but the contact can be made even greater.

The orchestra pit and the front and sides of the stalls are designed to be totally flexible so that promenade areas, choir stalls or on stage seating can be added as required. The theatre can stretch and shrink to accommodate houses ranging from 900 to 1,800 because the "second circle" ("dress" and "upper" cir-

ready until December 1999. It'll have to be quite a small opera though. Ian Albery is full of the joys of his high tech fly tower but he can get very no-can-do when anyone suggests grand opera.

Fair enough, really. He can do perfectly good business with the Wells's established mix that you very much. What's more, his core audience base has mushroomed during the closure period.

Sadler's Wells is only 20 minutes from the West End but it is also very much a neighbourhood theatre - and the neighbourhood is growing. Islington is expanding southwards as every available square foot of light industrial space is rapidly converted into a "luxury" loft (is there any other kind?). Restaurants spring up overnight so that at ground level you are knee deep in a

ready until December 1999. It'll have to be quite a small opera though. Ian Albery is full of the joys of his high tech fly tower but he can get very no-can-do when anyone suggests grand opera.

The gentrification of Finsbury should consolidate the shiny new Sadler's Wells as a smart place to be - it's even got a Weddings Licence. From £7.50 a seat the "artisans and labourers" Lilian Baylis wanted as the Wells' audience are in for a treat.



# Stand by your woman

That bastion of male chauvinism, country music, is riding high in the charts. But it's a new generation of female artists who are leading the charge. By Andrew G Marshall

AFTER MANY false starts, country music is finally breaking through over here. These days, most singles are considered successful if they last three weeks on the charts, but LeAnn Rimes has chalked up nineteen weeks in the Top 40, while Shania Twain and the Corrs have also achieved chart longevity. Although previous country stormtroopers were mainly men, this time the women are leading the way.

Nashville, the home of country, used to be very conservative but a lot has changed in a very short time. "There were unwritten rules in this town. You didn't play two women's records back to back," says writer Robert Oerman. "Women could not headline a tour - there were all these presumed facts that women had to overcome. To this very day, they still talk about having a woman's slot at record labels."

With female acts now taking up 50 per cent of the *Billboard* country charts, women are standing up and demanding to do it their way. "Not very long ago, even up to five years ago, women in country music were still meant to be submissive - now they are more outspoken than any other format. "Partly because we have never been able to be heard before," says Mindy McCready, the hottest new breakthrough act and the artist most tipped to cross over into world superstardom. She features in a new Channel 4 documentary *Naked Nashville* - and will be singing on the National Lottery with her boyfriend, Superman actor Dean Cain, pushing the button.

Instead of the traditional Nashville big hair and rhinestones, Mindy McCready's style is cropped tops and a pierced belly button. "They wanted me to be glamourous; I wanted to be more natural," says the singer. "I get manipulation that would not happen with a male artist. The trend has always been that women need help from a man. I get that more because I'm only 22 years old."

While "Girl Power" from the Spice Girls has meant little more than shouting slogans, Mindy McCready has learnt first-hand how

hard life can be: "My mum was single and working a lot of the time. I would take over the mother role, cook dinner for my two brothers, see they took their baths and did their homework. In a way, I suppose that was their dad." Not surprisingly, she finds it difficult to trust other people: "I'm always going to stand up for myself because if there wasn't a Mindy McCready, if I am too tired and sick to work, then it doesn't do anybody else any good. It's up to me to look after myself." Her record company sent her to media school to iron out her rough edges, but she is proud of flunking.

The contrast between the previous generation of country women

*The guys have been singing about trucks or love, while the women are addressing socially significant issues like wife abuse'*

and today's successors is starkly portrayed in the documentary *Naked Nashville*. While Tammy Wynette is filmed when she is extremely ill, just a few months before her death yet still touring to pay her bills, fellow singer Reba McEntire is the head of Nashville's most successful independent publishing company, McEntire has used her 40 million record sales as a lever into business: "I've accepted that I'm a woman and it's different. You don't scream, holler, bitch or throw a tantrum - but you can find a way. A woman is always smarter." Her latest venture is as internet provider, encouraging fans to sign up for Reba-net. "You have to be a business woman," agrees Mindy McCready. "It's a lot less singing than I hoped. Girls write me letters all the time asking for advice about becoming a singer. My main advice is: for God's sake, don't ever quit school. I use my brain 10 times more than I use my voice."

It is not just female performers who have made the breakthrough. For the first time, there is a woman

president of a Nashville record company, Evelyn Shriver. President of Asylum records, is ready to shake things up: "It has not been a real open community to women. I'm for freeing it up and trying some new people. In Nashville, we have tended to have our list of 'A' people who are used over and over again. If you have the same producer with the same musicians on every album, it might sound the same! I'm open to women producing and women doing a lot of things."

Female writers are becoming increasingly important too, as today's women stars sing about issues the women record buyers can relate to. "If I Don't Stay The Night" is a track on my new album, and I don't think a man could ever write a song like that," says Mindy McCready. "The premise of the song is a woman has fallen in love with a man but she doesn't know if he's falling for her. However, he is pressuring her to have sex and at this point she is not sure what to do. She's asking: would you still love me if I don't stay the night? At the end of the song, she doesn't stay the night which is what I would do and is why I chose this song. Country music does something that no other music does - it makes you identify with what we are singing. I have a way larger female audience than men. Most people expect it to be the other way because of the way I look. I get my ideas for which songs to record from fan letters. No other genre has such an intense relationship with its fans."

"With women used as window dressing, they were never under the same scrutiny," says Evelyn Shriver, "so they have recorded the most significant songs of the last few years; the guys have been singing about trucks or love and ignoring the issues. Country music, by and large, got away from what made it interesting to begin with - a real reflection of the ordeal of day-to-day living. But the women are addressing socially significant issues like wife abuse. There is a lot of frustration and women by and large could appreciate a little more respect and responsibility and these



Mindy McCready, the new star of women's country music and happy to take on Nashville's male-dominated establishment

everyday realities are reflected in the songs they are singing."

Female artists in Nashville are doing much better than the men who are stuck in that decade where everybody is wearing boots and a cowboy hat, making it hard to tell the difference between them. But the females are standing out, singing things differently and doing things differently from one another. Certainly in the UK we are responding to these women with their songs receiving twice as much airplay than male artists. "The artists that have

taken the story round the world are women," says Shriver. "They made it a priority because the women did not get the same money in America as the men - I know because I represented Tammy for many years. Their disadvantage has been turned into an advantage, because they have been willing to put in the investment of touring Europe."

Despite all the success, country women are still very cautious: "None of them will overtly or in any way call themselves a feminist," says Joanna Bailey, the director of Naked

Nashville. "Even women who have done well are very careful and conscious of not alienating middle America. They play it very safe. When I asked Mindy, who is incredibly ballsy and takes no shit from nobody, if she was a feminist, she told me: 'I don't want to be tied up in that way. No, I don't hate men.'"

Just how much further women country stars have to travel for equal treatment is revealed by comments from the President of MCA Records, Tony Brown, in Naked Nashville. He confesses: "They lay

down the pictures in front of me and say: 'This girl is 21 or 22' and then I get the tape. With the guys, you play the tape and you go: 'Have you got a picture of him?' And they reply: 'He's a little overweight, we'll get them real soon, we have him on a programme.' With women, there is still the idea that she has to be a babe."

*Naked Nashville* is on Channel 4 on 11 July at 8pm. Mindy McCready's single 'Oh Romeo' is released on the same day



## LYRIC SHEETS

MARTIN NEWELL

Veteran organist, composer and criminally under-rated vocalist Georgie Fame was 55 last week. He began his career as a pub pianist but first became known for his Hammond organ-playing with a residency at Soho's Pink Flamingo Club in 1962.

### Georgie Fame then ...

This was in The Pink Flamingo Down in Wardour Street  
In a cellar for the hepcats  
In the days of beat  
With a northern kid on organ  
Who they'd never seen  
Jimmy Smith - or in the region  
He was what ... nineteen?  
As the Hammond's Leslie speaker  
Slowly turning round  
Like a conning-tower radar  
Pumped the swirling sound  
For the Modernists and villains  
And the black GIs  
Who would clock the young pretender  
Through their pilled-up eyes  
When they registered the texture  
Of his foggy croon  
As it rose above the organ  
Like a shipyard moon  
'Til the sound spilled up the stairway  
In the smoky heat  
Slipping into small hours silence  
Via Gerrard Street  
Past the posters on the brickwork  
Reading "Georgie Fame"  
Which on crawling out they noticed  
Was the new cat's name



## JOSE CURA

*'If I am the fourth, who is the third? It's a title that doesn't mean anything. In some papers I am the Fourth Tenor, in others it is Roberto Alagna, so who the hell is it really?'*

— CLASSICAL MUSIC, PAGE 18 —



## Recommended releases.



Billy Bragg & Wilco  
'Mermaid Avenue'  
Billy Bragg joins forces with American rock band Wilco on a unique collaboration that sees them putting music to never-before-released lyrics from legendary American protest singer Woody Guthrie.



Yes  
*'Friends And Relatives'*  
Friends And Relatives is a superb double cd, featuring highlights from the solo careers of individual members of Yes, including a 1988 re-recording of 'Owner of a Lonely Heart' by Jon Anderson plus contributions from other distinguished Yes-men, including Rick Wakeman and Steve Howe.

# Parodies lost

Finally, Ben Folds sheds the mantle of the jolly japester and lets his songs speak for themselves. By Andrew Mueller



Ben Folds "spits and croons his songs with venom and poise"

Redferns

ON THE sleeve of *Naked Baby Photos*, Ben Folds Five's recent album of out-takes and live tracks, Folds writes that "London is one of the first places we really felt understood. Our shows there are usually us at our best." The North Carolina-born Folds hasn't been part of enough chattering yawning London audiences to realise that his band also bring out the best in this city. The three-piece Five receive an ear-splitting standing ovation for ambling on stage.

This hysteria has, on previous tours, been hard to fathom. Ben Folds Five appeared determined to undermine their songs with a delivery irritably like dim students pulling a wizard wheeze for rag week. Folds appeared an American equivalent of The Divine Comedy's Neil Hannon - a prodigiously talented writer compelled, by embarrassment or lack of confidence, to scatter his art with whooped cushions. Folds wrote genuinely funny lyrics - on "Song for the Dumped" he rendered pop's canon of overwrought love-gone-wrong songs pretty much redundant with the lines "Well, fuck you too / Give

## POP BEN FOLDS FIVE THE FORUM LONDON

me my money back, you bitch". But like Hannon he had trouble realising that you can be witty without turning yourself into a comic act.

The good news is that, just as Hannon seems to have figured this one out, Folds too has stopped laughing at himself. On the evidence of tonight's astonishing performance he's developed sufficient confidence in his material to let it sing for itself. He spits and croons his songs with the same venom and poise with which he batters and caresses his piano.

The Five's other two members, drummer Darren Jesse and bass player Robert Sledge, have blossomed into a mighty rhythm section, capable of the light touch necessary for "Brick" and the violence required by "One Angry Dwarf & 200 Solemn Faces". They're reminiscent of Elvis Costello's Attractions, and praise doesn't come higher than that.

Folds, at last, performs like what he is - one of the most refreshing talents to emerge from America in years. As a lyricist, he's as righteous and withering as peak form Jarvis Cocker - "The Battle of Who Could Care Less", with its cruel portraits of contemporaries wasting their youths cop shows through clouds of marijuanna smoke, could be Pulp's "Common People" recast for the American grunge generation.

Folds' musical influences are obvious enough (Costello's *Armed Forces*, Joe Jackson's *Night & Day*), but a lot of his songs' emotional pull is down to the fact that he writes in not just what he's liked listening to, but what he's had to listen to. Many of Folds' harmonies and arrangements are cribbed from such inescapable MOR horrors as ELO and Chicago. These delicately woven elements of Folds' songs are as subliminally affecting as hearing old television themes.

A great writer with a great voice backed by a great band on rare form - if they keep this up the screams of London will shortly echo around the world.

## CD CHOICE



HELLO NASTY  
BEASTIE BOYS  
(GRAND ROYAL)



Baaba Maal  
BAABA MAAL  
(ISLAND PALM PICTURES PALMCO2002)

STYLISH AND sophisticated, *Nomad Soul* is the album which should finally see Baaba Maal assume the kind of global reputation enjoyed by few African artists other than Youssou N'Dour. Building on the crossover style developed with Afro-Celt Sound System's Simon Emmerson for 1995's *Firin' It*, *Outa*, the album features a more diverse selection of producers that includes such as Paul "Groucho" Smylie, Mykell S Riley, Brian Eno, Jon Hassell and Howie B, alongside Emmerson himself.

The results are as varied as that suggests, though all the tracks capture the infectious combination of propulsion and light at the heart of Maal's work. "Africans Unite" is typical, a gentle groove on which low humminig carries a duet with reggae star Luciano. "Souka Nayo" is reminiscent of earlier Emmerson productions, with kora, shaker and horn punctuation animating an ambient keyboard drone. Elsewhere, "Yiryo" features complex layers of percussion, and "Mbolo" a great dipping, sliding groove of mysterious weightlessness. The atmosphere throughout is utterly charming, especially on "Fanta", a twinkling, effervescent slice of Afro-pop just begging to spearhead an international ad campaign.

IGNORING THE anachronistic hardcore punk EP *Aglio e Olio* - which is, frankly, the best policy to adopt regarding it - *Hello Nasty* is the Beasties' follow-up proper to 1994's sterling *Ill Communication*. It's a huge project, both in terms of sheer size - a whopping 22 tracks - and artistic scope, being the (il)logical culmination of the group's career, a strong and unified braiding of their various stylistic strands. It's also probably the first Buddhist rap album, with lines like "All this action, no satisfaction/ We're all linked together like a chain reaction" reflecting the beliefs that led the Beasties to instigate last year's Tibetan Freedom Concerts. But where one might spiritual equanimity, *Hello Nasty* is heartily volitional, bulging with exuberance and attitude.

The most significant difference between *Hello Nasty* and previous Beasties albums, though, is the

vastly increased role of keyboardist Mark Ramos-Nishita, who as well as continuing to put flesh on the band's bare-bones funk workouts, also brings much of his solo album's appealing diversity to a track like "Song for the Man"; the result sounds like nothing so much as Frank Zappa doing lounge music with a message. With such an array of talent at their disposal, the album groans with potential singles, from the twitching funk sway of "Flowin' Prose" to the classic rap contours of "Remote Control", the latter a call to action which one might have thought contravened the more acquiescent of Buddhist principles: "Remote control to change the station/ But that won't change your situation". Couch spuds, unite and fight for your rights!

Redfern

## THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

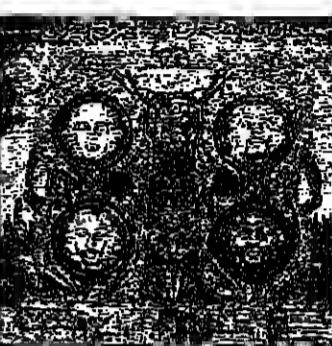
REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



ENGLAND MADE ME  
BLACK BOX RECORDER  
(CHRYSTALIS 01493 9072)



TERITORY  
ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART  
(HANNIBAL HNCD 1431)



WAYZ OF THE DRAGON  
VARIOUS ARTISTS  
(DOPE DRAGON DRAGCDLP01)

THE ELABORATE packaging - a miniature comic-book - of *Wayz of the Dragon* effectively betrays the largely tedious nature of the musical contents it is attempting to tart up, which have all the depth and characterisation of the average comic or computer-game. The product of Roni Size & DJ Krust's Dope Dragon label, the album features an average of two tracks of busby dance-floor jungle apes from Mask, Swabe, Gang Related, 3 Way, Mad Professor and Bigga Star - though even their mothers would be hard pushed to tell them apart, so little personal signature is there to any of the eleven "individual" tracks. It's as if they've all been sliced off one enormous, catering-size loaf of drum 'n' bass.

The country blues is still well represented through Buika White's "Mama Don't Allow" and a fluid, haunting version of Skip James's "Illinois Blues", but Hart also offers his own take on punchy blue-beat ("Just About to Go") and Rudy Valle croon ("Dancing with Tears in My Eyes"), and even whips up a Bob Wills-style Western Swing number, "Tallacatcha", complete with fiddle and yodelling. And somewhere amid all this genre-hopping, he manages to make light work of the peculiar angularities of Captain Beefheart's "Ice Rose". Impressive isn't the word.

It's his acoustic guitar work that remains Hart's forte, however particularly on "Ouchita Run", and the concluding instrumental reverie "Underway at Seven", a musical memoir of his time spent working on the Mississippi riverboats. It's a huge talent which one hopes Hart can handle more sympathetically than his previous label Epic.

Redfern

## THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 UK SINGLES

TITLE	ARTIST
1 <b>Three Lions '98</b>	Baddiel, Skinner
2 <b>Vindaloo</b>	Fat Les
3 <b>Ghetto Supastar</b>	Pras Michel
4 <b>C'est La Vie</b>	B*Witched
5 <b>Got The Feelin'</b>	Five
6 <b>Horny</b>	Mousse T
7 <b>Carnaval De Paris</b>	Dario G
8 <b>Lost In Space</b>	Lighthouse Family
9 <b>The Boy Is Mine</b>	Brandy & Monica
10 <b>Looking For Love</b>	Karen Ramirez

### TOP 10 INDIE ALBUMS

TITLE	ARTIST
1 <b>Life Won't Wait</b>	Rancid
2 <b>Big Calm</b>	Morcheeba
3 <b>Version 2.0</b>	Garbage
4 <b>Tin Planet</b>	Space
5 <b>Garbage</b>	Garbage
6 <b>How To Operate</b>	Lo-Fidelity Allstars
7 <b>People Move On</b>	Bernard Butler
8 <b>Word Gets Around</b>	Stereophonics
9 <b>In My Life</b>	George Martin
10 <b>N'Dea Davenport</b>	N'Dea Davenport

### TOP 10 UK ALBUMS

TITLE	ARTIST
1 <b>Talk On Corners</b>	The Corrs
2 <b>Blue</b>	Simply Red
3 <b>When We Were...</b>	Rod Stewart
4 <b>Live Thru A Lens</b>	Robbie Williams
5 <b>Five</b>	Five
6 <b>The Good Will Out</b>	Embrace
7 <b>Postcards From Heaven</b>	Lighthouse Family
8 <b>Urban Hymns</b>	The Verve
9 <b>My Way - The Best Of</b>	Frank Sinatra
10 <b>Left Of The Middle</b>	Natalie Imbruglia

### TOP 10 INDIE SINGLES

TITLE	ARTIST
1 <b>Naked In The Rain '98</b>	Blue Pearl
2 <b>The Rockafeller Skank</b>	Farboy Slim
3 <b>Begin Again</b>	Space
4 <b>Surfin' USA</b>	Aaron Carter
5 <b>Feel It</b>	Tamperer feat. Maya
6 <b>Nagasaki Badger</b>	Disco Citizens
7 <b>Do For Love</b>	2Pac
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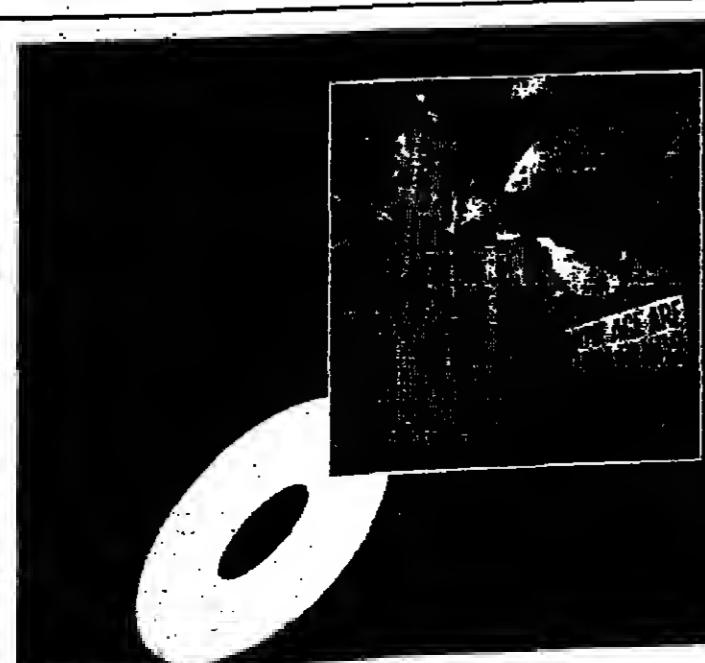
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# Mood swings at the supermarket

## RECORD ROUND-UP

PHIL JOHNSON

IN WHAT counts as a new first for one-stop shopping, you can now buy jazz albums on the same label as your underwear. Yes, Marks and Spencer has entered the jazz retail market with the release of three compilation albums on its own St Michael label. While the imprint might not have the hip clout of Blue Note or Verve (from whose catalogues most of the tracks are taken), it certainly has high street visibility on its side, and it can't have escaped the attention of M&S that such compilation albums regularly top the jazz charts.

In fact, the jazz charts, such as they are, consist almost entirely of similar, carefully themed, collections of more or less the same tracks by more or less the same artists, reshuffled endlessly into new packages and marketed as a kind of sub-style enhancer. Got a hot date tonight? Then stick on "Late Night Jazz" as a little light seduction aid just as the coffee starts to filter through. Has that sunlight glinting through the window started to get you thinking wistfully about the sensual promise of hot summer nights? Bung "Summer Jazz" on the CD and let Astrud Gilberto or Sade lull you into tropical torpor. Feeling a bit downhearted about that failed love affair or job interview? Take solace in "Jazz Depression", a selection of pleasingly maudlin ballads sponsored by the Samaritans

collections would still sound pretty much the same. The contents of the mid-price releases have been compiled very tastefully, and classic recordings from the usual big names (Ella, Billie, Nat, Ellington, Bird, Diz and the like), and with the usual emphasis on vocals, have been mixed with some lesser-known tracks by lesser-known artists. Only the appearance of catalogue-filler material by the likes of Dianne Reeves and Oleta Adams lets the good M&S name down, al-

Surman on soprano saxophone and bass clarinet. The result is contemplative yet intensely rhythmic music in which Holland and Surman somehow contrive to sound surprisingly Arabic, while in turn Brahm hem swings most convincingly, emphasising that jazz's African roots were themselves partly derived from Arabic sources.

Three outstanding re-releases (a form that increasingly comes a close second to the thematic compilation in the charts) have also just

*Feeling a bit downhearted? Then take solace in "Jazz Depression", a selection of pleasingly maudlin ballads sponsored by the Samaritans*

though the inclusion of that well-known Welsh bugle player Miles Davies may well point to a proofreading error. If only one impulse buyer gets the unexpected thrill of hearing Peggy Lee sing "The Folks Who Live On The Hill", then M&S's brave initiative can be counted as a success, in aesthetics if not in sales. But if other tracks don't fit, can you take them back?

The best new jazz album of the month is probably *Thimar* by Anouar Brahem on the ECM label, whose imprint rivals M&S as a sure sign of quality in the marketplace. Brahem is an Arabic oud player, and on this set his remarkable virtuosity is partnered by the improvisations of Englishmen Dave Holland on double bass and John

become available. Motion by Lee Konitz (Verve, CD), is a reissue of the sometimes forbiddingly cerebral alto saxophonist's trio album of 1961, with Elvin Jones on drums and Sonny Dallas on bass, together with an additional two CDs of hitherto unreleased tracks from the sessions. Konitz's elegant improvisations on the repertoire of standards are beautifully light and airy, and the unfettered approach to melody (probably influenced by Ornette Coleman) anticipates his later, intensely personalised, version of freeform jazz.

*Monk Alone* by Thelonious Monk (Columbia Legacy, 2 CDs) is a reissue of Monk's complete solo piano recordings for CBS. Though perhaps less important than his

1950s output for the Prestige label, these are still amongst the greatest and most idiosyncratic recordings in all of jazz, and come complete with 14 previously unreleased takes. As well as the (surprisingly few) original compositions, there are numerous Monkian re-workings of standards like "Body and Soul" and "Memories of You", all delivered in a style so spare that you could almost drive a Cadillac through the space between the notes.

*Cross Country Tour 1958-1961* by the Ahmad Jamal Trio (Chess, 2 CDs), is a reissue of the Philadelphia pianist's legendary *Live at the Pershing* album of 1958 - a big hit in its day - with the Chicago club set complemented by further live recordings from Washington and San Francisco.

Renowned as the one instrumentalist that Miles Davis actually owned up to as an influence, Jamal has remained a fairly obscure figure, largely due to his understandable reluctance to appear live or to record for less money than he thought he was worth, which was (and still is) a lot.

The method of the trio, with the astonishingly fluid playing of Israel Crosby on bass and the rhythmic shuffle of Vernel Fournier on drums, is impeccably hip. Jamal's famous composition, "Poinciana", supplies the template, with Crosby's bass circling endlessly on a single motif against occasional twinkles from Jamal, one of the most successful followers of the less-is-more aesthetic in jazz.

Now if Marks and Spencer could find a gap in the market for Jamal ("Difficult Customer Jazz", perhaps?), the high street would really start to swing.



Anouar Brahem, an old maestro who can still swing

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**7 July 7.30pm**  
THE COPENHAGEN TRIO: Coffee Concert  
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Money is not a problem when US firms recruit. Traditional British loyalty is. By Linda Tsang



Moni Mannings, a UK partner at Dewey Ballantine: 'The perception of those outside the US firms is that you are worked into the ground' Nicola Kurtz

## The Americans have landed, and they're here to stay

THE MEDIA image of American lawyers – less *Ally McBeal* and more *LA Law*, but with New York salaries – has been confirmed by the publication of the profits per partner of the top New York law firms.

The *American Lawyer* report showed that Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz has annual profits of \$2.2m per partner, and Cravath Swaine & Moore \$1.79m. In comparison, it is estimated that at the more successful of the London firms, such as Slaughter & May, Allen & Overy and Linklaters & Paines, annual profits are around £500,000 per partner.

From an American lawyer's perspective, Jeff Gordon, the US head of the London office of the Chicago-based law firm Mayer Brown & Platt, says: "In the main, there are a lot more similarities between the two countries, and that includes the money, but there are cultural differences in the way US and English lawyers work. For example, a US partner may spend 10 hours in the office and bill the client for eight, whereas a UK lawyer working for a London firm may also spend 10 hours in the office, but bill five."

There is also a difference between the hourly rates charged. At the top end, for a US law firm, \$550 (£375) is one of the highest rates charged, whereas in a London City firm, partners at the top end may charge up to £475 an hour.

But Gordon adds that general-

ly, in terms of pricing, US and UK firms are not all that different. The perception is that US firms expect their lawyers to have higher billing hour targets. For example, it is thought not uncommon for both partners and associates and assistants to bill 2000 hours a year, whereas a London firm, might expect 1,400-1,600 hours a year. But this "is not always a fair view – some firms find a compromise by charging more than they would in the US, but the targets are lower."

Some US firms, especially those in New York, are much more profitable than their London counterparts, so can afford to pay "top dollar" for the best people. For example, one US firm in London pays its first-year qualified assistants £60,000, whether UK- or US-qualified, almost twice what the top five London law firms pay. A junior partner in London will probably be on £200,000-£300,000; his or her equivalent in a top five New York firm may receive about 30 per cent more.

Moni Mannings, a UK partner at Dewey Ballantine in New York, who has seen both sides of the divide, comments: "The perception of those outside the US firms is that you are worked into the ground because the billable hour and chargeable recovery rate are the main goals; the London firms are considered more 'civilised' compared with the dog-eat-dog culture of US firms. In amongst all the stereotyping is the fact thatulti-

mately, with almost 70 US firms with London offices, and about 375 UK lawyers working for them, US firms are not going to go away, and they are serious competition in certain areas of the legal market. On a wider scale, it means that the clients have much more choice. They can opt for a London firm or a US firm, or a firm tied to an accountancy practice."

She adds that the move to work

**With almost 70 US firms with London offices, and about 375 UK lawyers working for them, US firms are not going to go away, and they are serious competition in certain areas of the legal market**

for a US law firm does not mean changing to a fundamentally different practice – "but there is a more businesslike environment and a much more meritocratic and pioneering culture".

As to the attraction of the money, Mannings says that it obviously makes what can be seen as a risky career move easier to make, but there may be problems if the move is motivated solely by

the money. And not all moves mean more money. Maurice Allen, who, as a partner at the London firm Clifford Chance, set up the New York law firm Weil Gotshal & Manges' London office in 1996 after a brief sabbatical, is on record as saying that he took the job for less money than he was offered.

The office now has 59 UK lawyers out of a total of 71. He agrees that money is always dangled as a carrot for UK lawyers and that that must be the only reason to switch, but "six- and seven-figure salaries depend on how good the lawyer is at cutting a good deal. Telephone number salaries across the board and having to record thousands of billable hours are two of the great myths."

It is seen to be in the interests of the targeted top five London firms for those myths to be perpetuated. Weil Gotshal has just poached one of Clifford Chance's top billers, the corporate finance partner Mike Francies, who is thought to have hilled £5m for the firm last year.

Another US firm, Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft, has also tempted the partner Andrew Wilkinson to its London office, also from Clifford Chance.

But moves by UK lawyers to US firms have not always been entirely successful. The New York firm Chadbourne & Parke advertised its intentions to make an impact on London with an advertisement in 1996 offering

£700,000 a year, which attracted applications from lawyers working for the leading London firms Freshfields and Ashurst Morris Crisp.

In a very short time, one partner had left to join the London firm Cameron McKenna and two other lawyers had joined the New York firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld, and Ian Johnson (who was at Ashursts) has now joined Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe.

As another Britpack partner comments: "The fact that three of the four lawyers went to other US firms shows that US firms are not all the same, and are still an attractive option. The problem that Chadbourne had was with their particular strategy in setting up in London, not with being a US firm."

The inevitable conclusion is that the differences are more apparent than real, but they can be overcome – as Maurice Allen, of Weil Gotshal, says:

"The English tend to perpetuate the image of a brilliant amateur overlaid with innate conservatism, so Americans do not understand why English partners stay with a firm. It is usually through intense loyalty, even if they would do better elsewhere."

So it may be that, as their American colleagues celebrate their own Independence Day this weekend, so will the Britpack, buoyed by the entrepreneurial and pioneering spirit which their American cousins have imported to London – and, of course, the money.

### IN BRIEF

ALMOST ONE in every three solicitors in England and Wales had a formal complaint lodged against them in 1997. Complaints against barristers are also rising – almost one in 20 barristers had a formal complaint made against them in the same period. The figures were released in the first annual report of the Legal Services Ombudsman, Ann Abraham. She said that the body responsible for handling the solicitors complaints "is probably doing everything that it can at the moment. What I don't think is that solicitors are doing everything they can at the moment."

THE LORD CHANCELLOR Lord Irvine of Lairg has outlined his proposals to crack down on City fraud which involves solicitors. His proposals include an option for a newly created body to examine any misconduct charges against solicitors, which could take over from the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal. Lord Irvine said: "The first option is simple and allows for the element of expert scrutiny. The case for a single body to be responsible for the judging and grading of the many degrees of wrongdoing following the jury's decision on criminal liability is also strong."

CITY FIRM Gouldens acted for former director John Gunn in the longest-running director disqualification case. The court case lasted more than three years with the judge eventually ruling that the former director of the British & Commonwealth Holdings was fit to be involved in the management of the company. Mr Gunn's battle to disprove the Department of Trade & Industry's allegation that he was unfit to be concerned in the management of the company following its acquisition of Atlantic Computers lasted nearly 10. This was the first such case to come to trial in relation to a listed company.

BRITISH AIRWAYS has recruited the barrister who represented the budget airline EasyJet, which has claimed that BA is trying to drive it out of business with its Go subsidiary. Leading aviation barrister Robert Webb QC, of 5 Bell Yard chambers, will join BA as its general counsel in September. Mr Webb also represented Virgin Atlantic airlines in its "dirty tricks" case against BA, and has also represented BA previously.

LINDA TSANG

## 'Serious flaws' floor the SFO

Even reorganisation and restructuring have failed to convince lawyers that the fraud office is a good thing. By Robert Verkaik

THE RELATIONSHIP between the legal profession and the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) hit rock bottom in May when the Government paid out £27,500 to solicitors who were badly treated by their counterparts in the SFO.

A High Court judge described the case – in which a solicitor was falsely accused of money-laundering, had his home raided and had thousands of privileged documents taken – as "seriously flawed". The SFO was popularly lampooned for a string of cases in which high-profile defendants have escaped conviction, and the judge's words hit a sensitive nerve among senior SFO lawyers.

Philip Barden, a partner at the London law firm Devonshire, is representing the compensated solicitor, who cannot be named because of an ongoing but unrelated investigation. He likened the SFO's investigation to that of the Spanish Inquisition. The SFO were acting as junior partner in a fraud inquiry carried out by the FBI.

Mr Barden comments: "I was left in an impossible position. As a result of that, I have a very dim view of the SFO, as does my client. We were highly motivated to get damages."

The wrongly accused solicitor won £12,500, and a law firm that was also raided received £15,000. Costs, which are to be paid by the SFO, are likely to be in excess of £200,000, a

record sum for a case of this kind. Now the SFO has launched a full, independent inquiry into what went wrong.

In recent years, the SFO has been under pressure to get convictions, while at the same time its annual budget has been cut from £21m five years ago to just £16m this year. There is now more pressure on a smaller number of senior officers to achieve results. Under the former SFO director, George Staple, the organisation underwent a significant restructuring. Integrated operation divisions were created, comprising lawyers, financial investigators and support staff. Under these conditions it is easy to see how senior SFO lawyers – knowing that they are being scrutinised by a new Labour government keen to be seen to be tough on crime in the City – may become heavy-handed with solicitors who they suspect to be guilty of frustrating their investigations.

Barden says that there is now a worrying trend emerging at the SFO, where some case officers have adopted bullying tactics against solicitors. He has also detected an over-willingness to apply for Section 2 warrants to raid solicitors' premises when ordinary Section 2

more "glamorous and exciting to rush off on behalf of the American government" and get a search warrant to raid a law firm than it is to serve a notice asking for specified documents. "The danger of it is that it shows a cavalier approach, that they would rather hit you and ask questions later," he says.

Robert Wardle, an assistant director at the SFO, does not believe that bullying is used as a tactic against solicitors, or that SFO lawyers have a lack of respect for legal professional privilege.

"Issues of confidentiality or legal professional privilege," says Mr Wardle, "are resolved by agreement with solicitors." He adds: "In order to obtain a warrant to search a solicitor's office we have to satisfy a magistrate that the service of a notice under Section 2 might seriously prejudice the investigation." He says that only a handful of such warrants are granted each year.

Mr Goldsmith, a solicitor at the London law firm Goldsmiths, represented the law firm raided by the SFO in this case, and also persuaded the High Court in a previous case to quash a Section 2 warrant issued against a non-solicitor client. He said that to say to the magistrate that the law firm would destroy the documents if they had notice of the investigation was "staggering".

Goldsmith argues that it is much

one has been prejudiced by the SFO taking short cuts."

Mr Goldsmith says: "My own view is that there is a cavalier attitude which makes them feel omnipotent. If it is very easy to go before a magistrate and get a search warrant, then you are inevitably become more lackadaisical about it."

George Staple, the former SFO director who stood down last year, argues that the SFO is careful to follow the rules but that "occasionally, things go wrong". He says that during his tenure, there was a good working relationship with solicitors. "These are difficult and complicated inquiries. The element of surprise is sometimes important and you have to be extremely careful that it is approached in a professional way." Complaints made against SFO officers when Mr Staple was in office were rare. But during the SFO investigation into the copper scandal, SFO officers were found to have breached a court injunction although an allegation of contempt of court was not upheld.

Mr Staple says: "If the changes that I put in place are pursued, then I have every reason to think that the SFO will have a successful future." Many lawyers remain unconvinced. Mr Barden favours privatising the service: "If you put it out to tender, and looked at its cost-effectiveness, you would soon see an end to the belligerent attitudes."

## Thinking more about divorce not may help

OUR LEARNED FRIEND



WILLIAM LONGRIGG

lover into the former matrimonial home, and the husband has broken in and taken the TV, video and hi-fi, the inadequacy of the expression "period for reflection and consideration" becomes apparent. The divorce will not be granted after the 15-month period (18 months from the information session) unless the children and the finances have been sorted out.

Broadly, family law practitioners welcome the new Act, but with important reservations. While they applaud the concept of no-fault divorce (the concept of fault often causes unnecessary acrimony), they are not so happy about the period of reflection and consideration, or the information meetings.

The theory is fine: consider the options before taking the final step, and do not imagine that it will happen quickly. But in reality almost everyone has thought long and hard about divorce before seeking professional help. The thinking behind the Family Law Act is, understandably, a wish to save money. Marriage guidance may obviate the need for divorce, and mediation provides an alternative to litigation. Most people can make their own minds up and will be surprised when they find that the process takes 18 months, and that they will be "interviewed" to see whether divorce is appropriate.

Under the 1996 Act, either or both of them will have to attend an information meeting before they can even consider issuing proceedings. The idea is that the couple is obliged to hear about the options open to them before they launch into divorce proceedings. All very well in theory, but will it work?

After the information session, three more months might elapse before either party – or both – may issue a statement of marital breakdown.

But even then, Richard and Susan have to wait a further 15 months (it would have been nine months, but for the children) before they can get a divorce. This is known as "the period for reflection and consideration". (In a case where the wife has an exclusion order against the husband, and has moved her

William Longrigg is a partner at Charles Russell



George Staple oversaw the restructuring of the SFO

notices will deliver documents just as easily.

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OUR  
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## NEW FILMS

**SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS** (12)

Director: Ivan Reitman  
Starring: Harrison Ford, David Schwimmer  
Question: what happens to the action hero who is too old and craggy to leap from moving trains and cling to the landing gear of a 747? Answer: he remains true to the audience which has matured with him, and reinvents himself as a romantic lead, rolling around with women half his age instead of alligators or ill-tempered Nazis.

The latest actor to undergo this inelegant transformation is Harrison Ford, who appears as a boozey cargo pilot in *Six Days, Seven Nights*. As long ago as 1981, when he first played Indiana Jones in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, screenwriters were introducing self-deprecating references to his wind-beaten demeanour into the script.

An absurdly mechanical screenplay throws Ford together with a New York magazine editor, played by Anne Heche, who is holidaying in Makatea when she gets a call requesting her presence at a photo shoot in Tahiti. She ropes Ford into flying her there, but a thunderstorm forces them to crash-land on a remote island. The director, Ivan Reitman, has adopted an old-fashioned approach which relies on implausible contrivances, and he doesn't balk at introducing teeth-gnashing pirates into the equation, either. But this qualifies as gritty social realism compared with the moment when Ford and Heche laughably recreate the famous *From Here to Eternity* beach scene. CW: Barbican Screen, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

**GREASE** (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)

Director: Randal Kleiser  
Starring: John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John  
I didn't warm to the garish musical *Grease* the first time around - the general consensus at school was that it was girls' stuff. But one thing which it has in its favour: 20 years on, is that it hasn't dated; its 1950s setting has picked the film. What fun there

is to be had from a work defined by its lack of ambition, comes from John Travolta's cocksure performance as a Brylcreemed high-school heart-breaker. CW: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

**KURT & COURTNEY** (15)

Director: Nick Broomfield  
There is a tragically pertinent lesson about the sacrifices which fame demands hidden somewhere in the new documentary *Kurt and Courtney*. But it would take a more intuitive film-maker than Nick Broomfield to wheelie it out. The story begins with the death of Kurt Cobain, the frontman of the rock band Nirvana, who was expressing fears about the conflict between integrity and celebrity long before he pressed a shotgun to his head in April 1994. The picture hits its emotional peak very quickly, when Broomfield visits Cobain's aunt. From there, Broomfield assembles reminiscences and conspiracy theories, finally channelling his energy into tracking down Courtney Love, Cobain's wife, who is in the process of filming, pressured many of the movie's financiers to pull out.

*Kurt and Courtney* is a voyeuristic freak show, with various interested parties each with a stake in the Cobain legend, paraded before us. The film's fatal flaw is that Broomfield places himself above these characters. He can't see that he has become the *maître d'* in this parasites' banquet. CW: Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End

**LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND** (15)

Director: John Hurt, Jason Priestley  
See *The Independent* recommends, right.  
CW: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Gate Notting Hill, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket

Ryan Gilbey

## GENERAL RELEASE

**THE APOSTLE** (12)

Director Robert Duvall plunges into his role in a manner that is both terrifying and entrancing. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square

**THE BIG LEBOWSKI** (18)

Jeff Bridges, John Goodman and Steve Buscemi star in one of the most string-out mysteries ever. West End: ABC Panton Street, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End

**THE BIG SWAP** (18)

A drab, unconvincing and preachy drama about partner-swapping. West End: Plaza

**CITY OF ANGELS** (12)

Nicolas Cage plays an angel puzzling over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman (Mélanie Ryan). West End: ABC Baker St, ABC Tottenham Court Rd, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

**DREAM WITH THE FISHES** (18)

Take a suicidal loser preparing to throw himself off a bridge. Add a junkie with a month to live and give them a few months on the road together before an inevitable tearful farewell. Serve with a sick-bag at the ready. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream with the Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success seem refreshing and deserved. West End: Metro

**GIRLS' NIGHT** (15)

Shameless teenager with Brenda Blethyn as a cancer-suffering bingo winner who jets off to Las Vegas for a last-chance holiday with her sister-in-law (Julia Walters). Initially bubbly, the picture soon becomes grossly manipulative. CW: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

**THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET** (15)

Jayne take on the rites-of-passage genre, set in Leicester in the 1970s. The lively script is complemented by the sparkling performance of Joanna Ward as the film's heroine. West End: Rio Cinema

**SLIDING DOORS** (15)

Romantic comedy in which its heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, is sent off into two separate realities at the same time, with two different suitors. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

**SOUL FOOD** (15)

A black version of *Parenthood*, with all the attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied eccentricity which that implies. West End: Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

**STAR KID** (PG)

Children's adventure about a young boy who's called upon to save the universe. What it lacks in budget, it makes up for in imagination. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

**STIFF UPPER LIPS** (15)

Spoof of the Merchant/Ivory movies from one of the talents responsible for *Leon the Pig Farmer*. West End: Plaza, Virgin Chelsea

**THE TASTE OF CHERRY** (PG)

The joint winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, but thanks to highly naturalistic performances, it's a hypnotic and moving experience. West End: Renoir

**THE WAR AT HOME** (15)

Tale of a traumatised Vietnam veteran on his return home to Texas adapted from James Duff's Broadway play, *Homefront*. CW: Plaza

**THE WEDDING SINGER** (12)

Dumb but winning comedy about a wedding singer (Adam Sandler) who falls for a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she's engaged to someone else. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

**MIMIC** (15)

Edie Falco stars as a doctor who successfully combats a virus that's sweeping New York by developing a rival cockroach species to wipe out the original disease-carrying fable. CW: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

**MY SON THE FANATIC** (15)

Hamid Kureishi establishes an opposition between an agreeable Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

**THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION** (15)

Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds Jennifer Aniston's dreams of a wedding and a joint burial plot by turning out to be gay. CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End

**PALMETTO** (15)

Ironic film noir directed by Volker Schlöndorff. Harry Barber (Woody Harrelson) is the ex-con who gets mixed up with a pair of duplicitous women. CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

**POINT BLANK** (18)

Re-release of John Boorman's chilling existential thriller starring Lee Marvin. West End: Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

**PONETTE** (15)

French tale of a precociously intelligent four-year-old girl (Violette Thivisol) whose mother dies in a car accident. The young Thivisol is superb, yet it's hard to deny discomfort at watching one so young parading emotion this raw and primal. CW: Curzon Mayfair, Metro

**RED CORNER** (15)

Richard Gere's very public pro-Tibet stance must have blinded him to the failings of this clunking piece of anti-Chinese propaganda. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys

**THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS** (18)

Executive-produced by Hoog Koog action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yun-Fat. West End: Virgin Haymarket

**SAVIOR** (18)

Politically inept war film set during the Bosnian conflict. Dennis Quaid stars as a man who loses his family in a Paris bomb blast and ends up becoming a hired killer. West End: Virgin Haymarket

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Romantic comedy in which its heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, is sent off into two separate realities at the same time, with two different suitors. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

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Ryan Gilbey

## CINEMA

## WEST END

## ABC BAKER STREET

(0171-935 9772) e Baker Street City Of Angels 11.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.00pm, 8.40pm Sliding Doors 3.00pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

## ABC PANTON STREET

(0171-930 0631) e Piccadilly Circus As Good As It Gets 3pm, 5pm, 8pm The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Good Will Hunting 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm L.A. Confidential 8pm Washington Square 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

## ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0171-739 4470) e Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Deconstructing Harry 10.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm Point Blank 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm, 10.30pm The Last Time I Committed Suicide 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm The Last Time I Committed Suicide 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

## ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0171-636 6148) e Tottenham Court Road City Of Angels 1.30pm, 3.35pm, 6.35pm, 9.35pm The Object Of My Affection 1.25pm, 4.25pm, 7.30pm, 10.30pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm, 10.30pm

## ABC SWITZERLAND

(0171-315 4216) e Marble Arch City Of Angels 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm, 10.30pm Point Blank 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm, 10.30pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm, 10.30pm

## ODEON KENSINGTON

(0171-315 4213) e High Street Kensington Six Days, Seven Nights 7pm, 9.30pm Point Blank 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm The Object Of My Affection 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm, 10.30pm Point Blank 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm, 10.30pm The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.30pm, 8pm

**HARROW**  
SAFARI CINEMA (0181-436 0303)  
• Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone  
Gbulam 1.30pm, 5pm  
Major Saab 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm  
Satya 8.45pm

**WARNER VILLAGE** (0181-427 9009) • Harrow-on-the-Hill City Of Angels 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 9pm, 11.30pm Deep Impact 3pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm, 11.15pm Mimic 2.50pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.15pm, 11.40pm The Object Of My Affection 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm The Replacement Killers 11.25pm Screen 2.11pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm, 11.30pm Sliding Doors 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Soot Food 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm, 10.30pm

**HOLLOWAY**  
ODEON (0181-315 4213) • Holloway Road/Archway City Of Angels 1.40pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm Mimic 1.50pm, 7.25pm The Object Of My Affection 4pm, 9.40pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.55pm

**ILFORD**  
ODEON (0181-315 4223) • Gants Hill City Of Angels 1.30pm, 2.40pm, 5pm, 8.30pm Deep Impact 1pm, 5.55pm Mimic 1.20pm, 2.50pm, 6.30pm, 8pm Mousehole 11.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Sliding Doors 3.25pm, 8.25pm The Wedding Singer 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

**KINGSTON**  
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409)  
BR, Kingston City Of Angels 2.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Object Of My Affection 2.15pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

**MUSWELL HILL**  
ODEON (315 4217) • Highgate City Of Angels 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Object Of My Affection 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm

**PECKHAM**  
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham, Ry City Of Angels 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm, 11.20pm Mimic 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm The Object Of My Affection 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Replacement Killers 11.25pm Six Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm, 11.25pm Soul Food 3.30pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm, 11.20pm Wishmaster 11.50pm

**PURLEY**  
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley The Object Of My Affection 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Sliding Doors 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm

**PUTNEY**  
ABC (0870-9020401) • Putney Bridge, City Of Angels 2.40pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Object Of My Affection 2pm, 7pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.15pm, 4.75pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm The Wedding Singer 4.30pm, 7.30pm

**LONDON**  
CINE LUMIERE AT THE INSTITUT FRANCAIS Queen's Place SW1 (0171-838 2144/2146) Gadjo Olo (17) 7.30pm

**RICHMOND**  
ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218) 8R: Richmond City Of Angels 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Object Of My Affection 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm The Wedding Singer 4.30pm, 7.30pm

**ROMFORD**  
ABC (0870-9020419) 8R: Romford, City Of Angels 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.10pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

**ODEON LIBERTY 2** (01708-729040) BR: Romford City Of Angels 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Deep Impact 4.45pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Mimic 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.10pm The Object Of My Affection 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm Sliding Doors 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

**SIDCUP**  
ABC (051-555 3111) 8R: Sidcup City Of Angels 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

**STAPLES CORNER**  
VIRGIN (0870-907017) BR: Cricklewood Hill City Of Angels 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm, 11pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1.40pm, 4.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.45pm Girls' Night 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm The Object Of My Affection 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 11.30pm Soul Food 11pm The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 6pm, 11pm

**STREATHAM**  
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill City Of Angels 2.30pm, 5.35pm, 8.40pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Sliding Doors 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm

**ODEON** (0181-315 4219) 8R: Streatham Hill • Brixton/Clapham Common Mimic 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm The Object Of My Affection 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 8.20pm The Wedding Singer 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.40pm

**STRATFORD**  
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (555 3365) 8R: Stratford East City Of Angels 3.50pm, 9pm The Girl With Brains In Her Feet 2pm, 6.50pm Girls' Night 1.30pm, 6.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm The Object Of My Affection 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm The Wedding Singer 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

**IPSWICH**  
IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215543) My Son The Fanatic (15) 6pm Shall We Dance? (PG) 6pm

**NORWICH**  
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Wag The Dog (15) 5.45pm Live Flesh (18) 8pm Regging Bull (18) 11.15pm

**SUTTON**  
UCH (0990-888990) • Morden City Of Angels 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.45pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 11.30pm Mimic 4.15pm, 12.15pm The Object Of My Affection 4.45pm, 7.15pm The Replacement Killers 11.15pm Six Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.45pm The Wedding Singer 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm, 11pm

**TURNPIKE LANE**  
CORONET (0181-888 2519) • Turnpike Lane, Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm, 11.30pm Sliding Doors 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Soot Food 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm, 10.30pm

**UXBRIDGE**  
ODEON (0895-813139) • Uxbridge City Of Angels 3.5pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm The Replacement Killers 11.25pm Screen 2.11pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

**WALTHAMSTOW**  
ABC (0870-9020424) • Walthamstow City Of Angels 2.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Object Of My Affection 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm

**WIMBLEDON**  
ODEON (0181-315 4222) • Wimbledon City Of Angels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm The Object Of My Affection 1.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.35pm, 4.35pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm

**WILTON ON THAMES**  
THE SCREEN AT WILTON (01932-252258) • Wilton On Thames Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

**WELL HALL**  
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Well Hall Musical melodrama: Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC1 (0171-369 1733) • Leic Sq/Tot C Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 8pm, 11.30pm The Wedding Singer 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

**WILLESDEN**  
BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) • Willesden Green City Of Angels 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

**WIMBLEDON**  
ODEON (0181-315 4222) • Wimbledon South Wimbledon City Of Angels 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Deep Impact 1.20pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.35pm, 4.35pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm

**WILTON**  
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Wilton On Thames Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

**WOODFORD**  
ABC (0181-989 3463) • South Woodford City Of Angels 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.25pm The Object Of My Affection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

**WOOLWICH**  
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

**YOUNG VIC STUDIO**  
THE SCREEN AT WILTON (01932-252258) • Wilton On Thames Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

## THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. • Seats at all prices • Seats at some prices • Returns only Matinees • (1): Sun; (3): Tue, (4): Wed, (5): Thu, (6): Fri, (7): Sat

**ANIMAL CRACKERS** Three actors recreate the wild antics of the Marx Brothers. Barnet Sculpture Court Silk Street, EC2 (0171-836 4141) • Barnet/Moorgate, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 11.15pm, 12.15pm The Wedding Singer 1.20pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm

**ART** Richard Griffiths, Tony Haygarth, Malcolm Storry in *Yessieh* Rehearsals. Palace Theatre, Royal Albert Hall, SW1 (0171-434 0909) • Picc Ctr, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 11.15pm, 12.15pm The Object Of My Affection 1.20pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** (0181-888 2519) • Turnpike Lane, Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm, 11.30pm Sliding Doors 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Soot Food 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm, 10.30pm

**BOY** (0181-888 2519) • Turnpike Lane, Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm, 11.30pm Sliding Doors 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Soot Food 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm, 10.30pm

**BUDDY** Musical biopic show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) • Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Sat 8pm, 11pm, 12.15pm The Wedding Singer 1.20pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm

**CATHERINE** (0181-888 2519) • Turnpike Lane, Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm, 11.30pm Sliding Doors 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Soot Food 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm, 10.30pm

**CHEMIST** (0181-888 2519) • Turnpike Lane, Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm, 11.30pm Sliding Doors 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Soot Food 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm, 10.30pm

**CHICHESTER** (0181-888 2519) • Turnpike Lane, Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm, 11.30pm Sliding Doors 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Soot Food 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm, 10.30pm

**CHICHESTER FESTIVAL** (0181-888 2519) • Turnpike Lane, Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm, 11.30pm Sliding Doors 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Soot Food 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm, 10.30pm

**CHICHESTER FESTIVAL** (0181-888 2519) • Turnpike Lane, Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.20pm, 11.30pm Sliding Doors 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Soot Food 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.2

## FRIDAY RADIO

## RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz FM  
3.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball  
3.00 Simon Mayo. **12.00** Jo Whiley. **2.00** Mark Radcliffe. **4.00** Java Pearce. **5.45** Newsbeat.  
**5.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection. **9.00** Judge Jules. **11.00** Nestwood - Radio 1 Rap Show.  
**2.00** Fabio and Grooverider. **4.00** **7.00** Emma B.

## RADIO 2

88-90.2MHz FM  
**3.00** Sarah Kennedy. **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan. **9.30** Ken Bruce. **12.00** Jimmy Young. **2.00** Ed Stewart. **5.05** Johnnie Walker. **7.00** Disney's Women. **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night. **9.45** Clochemere. **9.30** Listen to the Band. **10.00** David Jacobs. **10.30** Sheridan Morley. **12.05** Charles Lowe. **4.00** **6.00** Jackie Bird.

## RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz FM  
**3.00** On Air.  
**4.00** Masterworks.  
**10.30** Artist of the Week.  
**11.00** Sound Stories. See Pick of the Day.  
**12.00** Composer of the Week: Barber.

**1.00** Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.  
**2.00** The BBC Archive.  
**4.00** Music Restored.  
**4.45** Music Machine.  
**5.00** In Tune.

**7.00** Performance on 3.  
**7.50** Fantasia on a Favourite Waltz. By William Boyd. Hamburg in the 1940s. She walks in the streets and she plays the piano. One day she gives her a musical score - a sign of greatness to come? Read by Lynd Gwynne. (R)

**3.10** Concert, part 2. Brahms: Symphony No 1 in C minor.

**3.20** Postscript. Ian Peacock attempts to understand America through its self-image on radio and television. Is it a country, an ideology or just a chaos of cultures? 5: The Truman Show. Jim Carrey's new film, *The Truman Show*, features a man whose entire life is a 24-hour, live television show. Is this a metaphor for America itself, which increasingly lives through the TV? This surreal programme features a Texan rancher who argues that TV

## PICK OF THE DAY

A WEEK of Sound Stories (11am R3) devoted to novelists and music ends with James Joyce's *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*. The contrast between the work he was inspired by - his tastes seem to have verged on the kitch - and the experimental music that his work inspired could not be more stark; the result is an enjoyably eclectic programme, ranging from the Victorian parlour syrup of 'Just a Song at Twilight' to Luciano

Berio's gorgeously impenetrable *Chamber Music*. Robert Smith's comedy *Love, Pray and Do the Dishes* (11.30am R4 FM) begins well: with a priest being interrupted in the middle of mass when his mobile phone rings. It turns out to be God, bringing a well timed thunderclap by way of credentials and announcing the date of Judgement Day. Downhill after that, but it would have to be, really.



## RADIO 5 LIVE

(693, 909kHz MW)  
**6.00** The Breakfast Programme.  
**9.00** Nicky Campbell.  
**12.00** The Midday News.  
**1.00** Wimbledon and World Cup 7.55 World Cup 98. Ian Payne introduces commentary from Nantes on the second World Cup quarter-final.  
**10.00** Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes, including Papertalk, 10.30 sport round-up, 11.00 the late night news, and 11.15 *The Financial World Tonight*.

**1.00** Up All Night.  
**5.00** **6.00** Morning Reports.

## CLASSIC FM

(100.0-101.9MHz FM)  
**6.00** Michael Mappin. **8.00** Henry Kelly. **12.00** Requests. **2.00** Concerto. **3.00** Jamie Crichton. **6.30** Newsnight. **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. **9.00** Evening Concert.

**11.00** Alan Mann. **2.00** Concerto.

**3.00** **6.00** Mark Griffiths.

## VIRGIN RADIO

(121.5, 119.7-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz F)

**7.00** Chris Evans. **10.00** Russ Williams. **1.00** Nick Abbot. **4.00** Robin Banks. **7.00** Johnny Boy's Wheels of Steel. **11.00** Janey Lee Grace. **2.00** Howard Pearce.

## WORLD SERVICE

(198kHz LW)

**1.00** Newsdesk. **1.30** From the Weeklies. **1.45** Britain Today. **2.00** Newsdesk. **2.30** Songs of Home.

**2.45** Short Story. **3.00** Newsday.

**3.30** People and Politics. **4.00** World News. **4.05** World Business Report.

**4.30** Weekend/Insight (SW)

5.575kHz only. **4.45** Off the Shelf: A Simple Heart (SW 5875Khz Only). **5.00** Newsday. **5.30** Outlook.

**5.55** **6.00** Spotlight.

## TALK RADIO

**6.30** The New Talk Radio. Breakfast Show Kirsty Young with Bill Overton. **9.00** Scott Chisholm. **12.00** Lorraine Kelly. **2.00** Jimmy Boyd. **4.00** Peter Deely. **7.00** Moz Dee. **10.00** Mike Allen. **1.00** Mike Allen. **2.00** Mike Dickin.

## INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

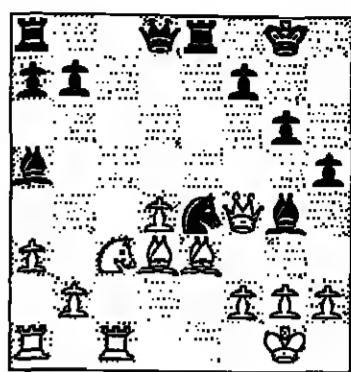
## CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

AFTER FIVE rounds in Dortmund, Kramnik and Leko share the lead with 3½ points, ahead of Adams and Ivanchuk 3; Anand and Svidler 2½; Belyavsky, Yusupov and Almasi 2; Shirov 1. Shirov seems to be suffering a reaction to his recent victory over Kramnik, which has earned him the right to challenge Kasparov in the autumn. At Dortmund, he lost from a superior endgame, but he won from a superior endgame against Kramnik, which was walking his king into a mating net.

With the top four players all undefeated and Anand having drawn all his games so far, the event has yet to take off, but the number of draws is not for lack of effort, as this game between Svidler and Anand shows.

Black could have trapped the queen with 19...g5 in the diagram position, but after 20.Qxe4 Rxe4 21.Nxe4, White has all the chances. After 19...Bxc3 g5, Black wins the queen under far better circumstances, but Svidler's 20.Bxg5! and his sacrifice with 23.Bxg5 steered the game into a level endgame. After 30...Rab, White only causes himself problems if he lets the black a-pawn advance.



White: Peter Svidler  
Black: Viswanathan Anand

Dortmund 1998

1 e4 e5 16 Rcl b5  
2 Nf3 Nf6 17 Nc3 Bd7  
3 d4 Nxe4 18 Qb3 Bg4  
4 Bd3 d5 19 Qf4 Bxg3  
5 Nxe5 Nd7 20 Bxe4 Bxg2  
6 Nxd7 Bxd7 21 Rcf7 Bg6  
7 0-0 Bg6 22 Rab1 Bxg3  
8 c4 c6 23 Bxg5 fbg5  
9 cxd5 cxd5 24 Rxb7 Re7  
10 Qb5 0-0 25 Rxe7 Bxe7  
11 Qxd5 Bd6 26 Qe4 Bf5  
12 Qb5 Bb4 27 Qxe7 Qxe7  
13 Be3 Re8 28 Rxe7 c5  
14 a3 g6 29 Bcl Rd8  
15 Qb3 Ba5 30 Be3 draw

## BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

NORTH-SOUTH were overly scientific in their bidding on this deal (19-3-3-0). No-trumps; east; commodes itself to simple souls) and, as a result, South had to work hard to make his game. Playing five-card majors, South opened 1 $\heartsuit$  and North, considering himself too good for a direct jump to game, started with 2 $\heartsuit$ . Perhaps South should have relied 2 No-trumps, oow but, with a good suit and nothing in spades, he preferred 2 $\heartsuit$  though this suggested a six-card holding. For reasons that escape me, North now tried 3 $\heartsuit$ . This set his partner a problem: he could hardly bid hearts yet again, a club raise was unthinkable, and false preference to diamonds was unattractive. He chose 3 $\heartsuit$  - an unusual application of the fourth suit! - and, finally, North showed heart support.

Thankfully South passed and West led 4 $\spades$  against Four Hearts. It looked very much as though everything would depend on the club finesse. There was no rush however - for example, the ace and king of diamonds might come down in three - so, after winning in dummy, declarer led a low diamond to the four; nine and ten. West continued with another spade to the ace and declarer led a second diamond.

This time, east went in with his ace, cashed his established spade, and switched to a trump.

Declarer woo on the table and ruffed a low diamond in hand, then he played off the rest of his trumps. You can see how the ending worked out: when the last trump was led, West, forced to keep his  $\spades$  in front of dummy, had to come down to  $\spades$ . Q. East was known still to hold a spade (and hence only two clubs), and oow the ace and king of clubs dropped the queen. for it no longer mattered which defender held it.

## PUZZLE

HERE'S ANOTHER puzzle about three-letter words: I have three tetrahedra (which you may think of as dice with four triangular faces). Each has a letter on each of its faces. I can arrange them so that I see one letter on each die to spell out each of the following words:

CAT, APE, WON, TAP, PEG, DIN, POD, RIG.

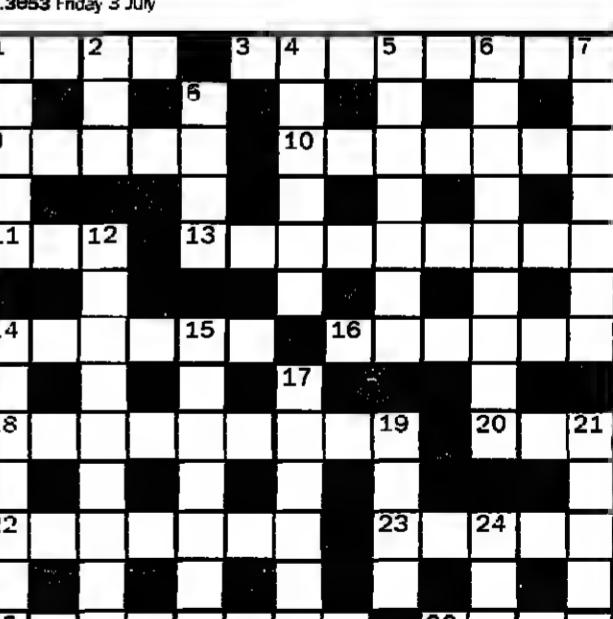
Can you work out which letters are on each of the dice?

(Answer on Monday)

Yesterday's answer:  
The most unarguable solutions are B and G; bag, big, big bag; bug; and P and T; pat, pat, pat, pot, put.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3853 Friday 3 July



## ACROSS

- Cordial (4)
- Of horrid arms (8)
- Prohibition (5)
- Shortfall (7)
- Concealed (3)
- Using both eyes (9)
- Octavia (6)
- Agreement between states (6)
- Territorial soldier (4)
- Attention (3)
- Rail link with France (7)
- Intrigue (5)
- Place of easily-acquired wealth (2,6)
- Deception (4)

1 Timepiece (5)  
2 Bone (5)  
4 Gnawing animal (6)  
5 Policeman, e.g. (7)  
7 Insil (9)  
8 Uterus (4)  
12 Small dog (9)  
14 Oalgia (7)  
15 Business associate (7)  
17 Ennobled (6)  
19 Course (4)  
21 Take it easy (5)  
24 Cry of disapproval (3)

## Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Autumn. 4 Attic (Automatic). 8 Apart. 9 Inexact. 10 Unearth. 11 Shoe. 12 Tab. 14 Myra. 15 Edge. 18 Lab. 21 Ante. 23 Ahalone. 25 Supreme. 26 Zum. 27 Nurse. 28 Despot.

DOWN: 1 Ariens. 2 Tracery. 3 Material. 4 Abd. 5 Teach. 6 Cutlet. 7 Light. 13 Bedazzle. 16 Grown-up. 17 Person. 19 Bacon. 20 Pelle. 22 Taper. 24 Date.

## SATELLITE AND CABLE

## PICK OF THE DAY

THE KNACK of Leslie Nielsen (right) as a comic performer is that he never lets it slip that he thinks the material is funny - he is a past master at keeping a straight face. Think of his wonderfully deadpan performances as Lieutenant Frank Drebin in *Police Squad*. He's at it again in Mel Brooks's comic reworking of the Dracula myth, *Dracula, Dead and Loving It* (9pm Sky Movies Screen 1, right), receiving its satellite



JAMES RAMPTON

premiere tonight. National Geographic devotes an evening to wildlife programming tonight. The highlight of *Friday Night Wild* should be *Dead on Arrival*: the Wild Parrot (10.30pm), which demonstrates that it is not only drugs which are smuggled out of South America. There is also a flourishing illegal trade in creatures, such as the blue-front Amazonian parrot.

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00 Sky Sports Centre (5193086). **7.45** Formula 1 (839561). **8.30** Sky Sports Centre (417176). **8.30** Sky Sports Centre (593533). **8.45** Crocodile Hunter (227777). **9.00** Forensic Detectives (232024). **10.00** Extreme Machines (232062). **11.30** The Century of Warfare (227359). **12.00** First Flights (782833). **12.30** Disaster (539765). **1.00** Forensic Detectives (5070022). **2.00** Close.

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (349576). **7.30** Formula 1 (743196). **8.00** Football World Cup (459393). **8.30** Sky Sports Centre (1425). **8.30** Snowjumper Grand Prix (2777). **7.00** Gallerie World Sport (242833). **9.30** Trans World Sport (565333). **10.30** Sports Unlimited (23512). **11.30** Formula Three Racing (74319). **12.00** Aerobics - Oz Style (39319). **12.30** Wheelbase (34626). **1.30** F1 (26261). **2.00** Euro Tour Golf - Murphy's Irish Open (1506208). **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (1425). **6.30** Snowjumper Grand Prix (2777). **7.00** Gallerie World Sport (242832). **8.00** Extreme Machines (232062). **9.00** Formula 1 (743196). **10.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **10.45** Sky Sports Centre (545933). **11.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **11.30** Sky Sports Centre (545934). **12.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **1.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **2.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **3.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **4.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **5.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **6.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **7.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **8.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **9.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **10.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **11.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **12.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **1.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **2.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **3.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **4.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **5.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **6.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **7.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **8.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **9.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **10.00** World Cup Phone-in (900571). **11.00** World Cup Phone-in

